

# **Wirral Historic Settlement Study**

## **Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project**

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## **Introduction to Historic Settlement Study**

The aim of the historic settlement study was to produce a consistent pro-forma template of information on settlements identified across all the historical townships in all 5 districts of Merseyside as based on the relevant paper First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile maps for Lancashire (published 1848 -1851) and Cheshire (1881 - 1882) . The purpose was to help provide background information for the data capture of character area polygons and also bring together some information on known or highlight other historic settlements, many of which have been lost or disguised by urban development. It was also thought that information would be useful for alerting to areas of possible archaeological interest to support the development management advice given by Merseyside Archaeological Advisory Service to the five districts. Historic urban settlement character is one of the key priority areas for research within Merseyside and one for which there is currently least documented archaeological evidence.

The study was desk-based and drew on accessible sources held within the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. A total of one hundred and seventeen separate studies were completed as follows:- Knowsley: 11, Liverpool: 30, Sefton: 23, St Helens: 11, Wirral: 42

This includes the slightly more detailed work on 'historic towns' (see Appendix 7 of main district report for methodology outline).

The settlement study represents a consistent synthesis of information to highlight settlement by the mid to later nineteenth century, complimenting the earliest set historic period for project data capture. It is not a definitive statement on the origins of settlement across Merseyside. Further detailed documentary and fieldwork research is required. The studies were initially carried out in tandem with the characterisation data capture for each district. They were all in initial draft by April 2008 (recommencement of the MHCP data capture) and accessible to provide background information for the character area polygons. For example, a Current area of industrial expansion might contain the otherwise unidentified medieval or post-medieval core of the township.

What determines our settlement identification?

- A clear group or concentration of buildings named on the map whether this is based on a nucleated group or linear 'ribbon' type development along one or more routes - generally characterised by some of the following: dwellings, school, inn, church, rectory farms, manor house, industry (i.e. coal mines/ brick works).
- Settlement areas for which there is not an identifiable core from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map sheets - these are still included and described within the context of their historic township. For some areas, the lack of identifiable core relates to the actual dispersed nature of settlement by the mid to later nineteenth century i.e. based on individual farms and estates. Alternatively some settlements clearly represent linear development along prominent routes and are the result of urban expansion and infilling of land around dispersed villas/farms/industries from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Many settlements have been submerged into later urban expansion, although do retain some historic survival/archaeological potential in their own right. Many were simply not already identified within the HER, symptomatic of the lack of research in to urban areas during its core compilation in the 1980's. Many have been previously degraded through historic demolition and remain under threat of loss, assisted by a combination of a lack of awareness and understanding of local historic interest and/or unwillingness to explore alternative regeneration solutions.

The results from the settlement studies compliment the existing content of the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. Furthermore, they have already supported:

- the planning advice given by the Merseyside Archaeological Advisory Service, enabling quick initial reference for individual planning appraisals,
- supply (in draft) to HER enquirers and other project consultants i.e. carrying out Conservation Area Appraisals,
- the data content of a pilot interactive on the archaeology of Merseyside in the Magical History Tour exhibition (2007, National Museums Liverpool).

The Settlement Study has not only highlighted areas of new archaeological interest but has the potential to contribute to regeneration and Conservation Area appraisals

simply by highlighting interest worthy of further desk-based and research in the field. In addition they may contribute to compilation of lists of buildings and areas of local interest and community based projects.

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## Arrowe

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	Arrowe Park area SJ 270 859
District:	Wirral
Township:	Arrowe
Geology:	Triassic Sandstone: Keuper beds in the west overlain by Bunter in the east. This is then overlain by Boulder Clay in much of the township.
Historic Core:	Although there is no obvious historic core as such, the name refers to the whole of Arrowe Park, an open park with some woodland, the only notable buildings present on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, lie to the north of the park at Arrowehouse Farm. Bryant's 1831 map of Cheshire displays a linear cluster of houses along Arrowe Park Road, between Woodchurch and Thingwall.
Origin of Name:	Arwe (1240). Norse, shieling (1) or hill pasture (2). From Middle Irish <i>airge</i> (2). Haree 1278; Argh 1296 (2); Harche 1312 (1), Ewre 1348 (2).
Topography:	The township of Arrowe covers a valley, in the centre of which is Arrowe Brook, which runs approximately north-south (flowing to the north and meeting the River Birket). Slopes rise up to the east and west to a height of approximately 55m.
History:	Arrowe is not listed in the Domesday Book, being recorded as part of Eastham. It was part of the grant made to the Barons of Montalt, under whom it was held by Roger de Soterlegh in 1278 (3). The manor was then subdivided into seven sections, and by around 1520 the Dutton family had acquired a quarter of it, and they ultimately managed to gain the whole manor (4). From the Duttons the manor passes to the Gerards, who are described as sole lords in 1668 and 1701. The Fleetwoods succeeded the Gerards (4).
Present landmarks:	Arrowe Hall (1835; enlarged 1844) stone-ashlar house built in the Elizabethan style, a nearby lodge dates to 1856 (5). Arrowe Brook Farm, individual farmhouse in the west of the township. Arrowe House Farm was bought, in 1807, by John Shaw, mayor of Liverpool and a Liverpool ship-owner,



whose boats were used in the slave trade. He died in 1829, and was succeeded by his son, John Ralph Nicholas Shaw, who built Arrowe Hall (4; 5).

- Historic landmarks: Sandstone boathouse adjacent to the boating lake. (6)
- Early Activity: The earliest find in the township is a silver coin dating to Edward I, found in the centre of the park. (6)
- Significant Post-Med Activity: In 1927 the Birkenhead Corporation bought Arrowe Country Park from Lord Leverhulme and maintained it as a country park. The corporation created a golf course, 40 football/cricket pitches, four bowling greens and six tennis courts (7). The brook was dammed to create a boating lake, and the area of woodland around the brook and ponds is now classified as a Site of Biological Interest (7).  
During the Second World War there was an encampment of the Free French Army at Arrowe Park (4).
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None
- Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-70. Published 1882.  
Bryant's Map Of Cheshire. 1831.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Arrowe*.  
(4) Roberts, S. J. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.  
(5) Pevsner, N. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.  
(7) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: an illustrated review*. The Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.

## Barnston

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	Barnston SJ 280 833 Cross Hill SJ 282 841
District:	Wirral
Township:	Barnston
Geology:	Triassic Upper Mottled Sandstone which outcrops in the settlement, and is overlain by Boulder Clay in much of the township.
Historic Core:	Settlement, centred on the junction of Barnston Road and Storeton Lane.
Origin of Name:	Bernestone (1086). Beornwulf's town. Personal name Beornwulf <i>tūn</i> (1; 2). Alternatively could have been derived from <i>bere</i> , Saxon barley/storehouse for barley (3). Beruleston 1199; Borneston c. 1250.
Topography:	Very gentle sloping land, up from lower ground in the east (around 50m) to higher ground in the west (around 85m). A valley, Barnston Dale, carrying Prenton Brook cuts through the north of the township.
History:	William Fitzniel is recorded as holding Bernestone in the Domesday Book (4). The hamlet then first listed as Bereleston in 1093, when the tithes were handed over by Ralph Fitz Ermiwin to the Abbey of St Werburgh (5). The township was inherited through the Bernston family until the mid-fourteenth century when it passed to the Tyldesleys (6).
Present landmarks:	Christ Church (1870-1871) stone-faced church with red tile roof features an octagonal tower (7). It was erected in memory of Joseph Hegan (5). Barnston Towers (1852 remodelling of earlier building) is a circular brick castellated structure associated with a house and stables. Two were originally constructed and one has been demolished (7). Fox and Hounds Public House. (8)
Historic landmarks:	Old Hall (medieval – post-medieval) is recorded as being in a ruinous state in 1724 (5). Water Mill (marked on 1847 Tithe Map) was used to grind foodstuff. Brick and Tile works adjacent to Barnston Road marked on 1847 Tithe Map.

Pensby House Farm was demolished to create a market garden; adjacent buildings contain historic material, including a monogram "JH".

Early Activity: The earliest finds in the township are a Neolithic axe in Barnston Dale, a Bronze Age flint scraper to the west of the village, and three Romano-British coins at different places in Barnston Dale, suggesting a concentration of activity around the brook, or preferable survival there due to lack of agriculture or building there. (8)

Significant Post-Med Activity: There are several post-medieval farms and cottages extant in the township, including Manor Farm (1849), Border Farm (possibly 1860), Lower Farm (seventeenth century), Laburnum Cottage (eighteenth century) and Ivy Cottage (eighteenth century). (8)  
In the twentieth century the south of the township has been developed into suburban housing estates

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Cross Hill is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map of 1882, and straggles Barnston and Thingwall townships.

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.  
Barnston Tithe Map 1847.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Smith, A.H. 1956 *English Place-Name Elements*. English Place-Name Society, Vol. XXV.  
(4) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(5) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.  
(6) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Barnston. vol.2*.  
(7) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *Historic Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Hanrmondsworth.  
(8) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## **Bidston**

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 29 SE
NGR (centred):	SJ 283 902
District:	Wirral
Township:	Bidston
Geology:	The higher land of Bidston Hill is Keuper Sandstone, while the surrounding area is made up of upper mottled Sandstone. This is overlain by boulder clay in some areas of the west and north east of the township. In the area of Bidston Moss are silts and clays overlay the peat of Bidston Moss due to it being inundated by the sea after c.4700 years ago (1).
Historic Core:	The historic core ran along Bidston Village Road and centred around St Oswald's Church.
Origin of Name:	Bediston (1260). Byddi's farm (2) or Budda's town (3). From Old English personal name Byddi or Budda and <i>tūn</i> . Alternatively could be a dwelling on a rock, deriving from <i>bytle stan</i> (2). Bodeston 1260; Bideston 1272; Bidelston 1294; Bethelstan 1347 (2).
Topography:	Bidston village lies on a sloping site down to the north and west from the narrow north-south ridge which forms the summit of Bidston Hill. The township covers an area of drainage basin within a sheltered inlet to the sea. This has formed the 'moss' a raised area of bog and marsh which contains peat deposits.
History:	Artefact discovery, however, indicates that Bidston was a centre of early activity prior to the medieval settlement. The majority of buildings within the village were built during the post-medieval period. The first detailed survey of the settlement was commissioned by Lord Kingston in 1665; the buildings shown on the map indicate that the settlement was principally agricultural farming community.
Present landmarks:	Bidston Hall (c.1620) for William Stanley, the 6 <sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby, probably as a hunting lodge for his deer park on Bidston Hill. It was restored in the 1960s (4). St Oswald's Church (1856) W. and J. Hay is sited in the middle of the settlement, the fabric of the church is largely Victorian, but it still incorporates the late medieval tower with chancel. The north aisle was

possibly added or remodelled in 1882 by W.E. Grayson. (5)

Bidston Observatory (1873) was, until 1999, part of the Natural Environment Research Council's Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory. (5)

Bidston Lighthouse (1866) built by the Mersey Dock Estate to guide ships into the Mersey estuary designed and built under the superintendence of the first director, John Hartupp. (5) Bidston Windmill (1821, rebuilt 1839) at the summit of Bidston Hill. It has not worked since 1875 and was restored in 1894. It is visible from much of the surrounding landscape. (5)

Historic landmarks: The former structure of St Oswalds was in existence by 1291, when it was valued at £5.6s.8d (6) and the curvilinear nature of the churchyard suggested an early date.

The first windmill on Bidston Hill is thought to date to the 1790s. A characteristic x-shaped depression in the land immediately to the north of the surviving windmill marks the site of a former wooden structure. (5)

School House (nineteenth century), destroyed in the Second World War. (5)

Early Activity: Two Neolithic stone artefacts have been discovered in fields close to the village core, south-east of the St Oswald's Church (7). Excavation in the 1990s discovered Mesolithic flint and Roman pottery (8). Roman pottery and a coin of Maximilian (286-305 AD) have also been discovered close to the village core. The circular nature of St Oswald's Church grounds indicates that the settlement has an early origin, and the fabric of the church has clear medieval elements. Within the township there is also considerable evidence of the use of Bidston Hill since an early date with rock carvings representing medieval mummers plays, and others which are suggested to be Viking, including the sun goddess. The moss to the north of the settlement has revealed occasional finds such as a possible prehistoric canoe. It was certainly in use in the late medieval period, when it was divided into Town Moss and Lord's Moss to differentiate that used by the villagers and the Lord. This area was gradually reclaimed and enclosed (1).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Bidston underwent industrial expansion during the nineteenth century; the largest effect was possibly in the draining of Bidston Moss during works on the Birkenhead Docks. The building of the Bidston-Hoylake Railway and the erection of the Holyhead – Liverpool electric cable, the new Bidston Lighthouse and the Bidston Observatory were other key developments at the time. The First and Second World Wars also left their mark on Bidston with the erection of an army

training and reserve camp during the First World War and the establishment of a German Prisoner of War Camp during the Second World War to the north of the settlement core.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

A place named 'Wooton' was recorded as place name in 1286, but this has now been lost.

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 7. Surveyed 1874-5. Published 1882.  
Bidston Tithe Map 1842.  
A map of the Tenements in Wallazey being part of Bidston Kingston Estate map. 1665.

References:

(1) Cowell, R. 1992. *Valley Road Business Park, Bidston Moss, Wirral: Archaeological Assessment: Final Report*. (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
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(6) Brownbill, J. and Cheetham, F. 1937. *A History of the Old Parish of Bidston, Cheshire*. THSLC 88, 1-44.  
(7) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.  
(8) Cleary, R., Nicholson, S., Philpott, R. and Smith, L. 1992. *An Archaeological Assessment at Church Farm, Bidston*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.

## Birkenhead

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 327 886
District:	Wirral
Township:	Birkenhead
Geology:	Bunter Pebble Beds overlain by Boulder Clay in most of the township, other than a coastal strip where the rock and alluvium surface.
Historic Core:	The settlement was first established on the coastal headland north of Birkenhead pool, the core of the settlement lay between Chester Street and the shore.
Origin of Name:	Bircheveth (1190). Headland overgrown by birch (1; 2). From <i>birce hēafod</i> . Birheuet c. 1200; Byrkeheveht 1259; Berkeheved 1275; Berkened c. 1280 (2).
Topography:	Gentle undulating land, generally rising from a relatively flat plain in the north (adjacent to the West Float) towards higher land in the south and Tranmere (40m).
History:	The medieval monastic Birkenhead Priory on the coast was established in 1150 and it is likely that settlement grew up adjacent to this (3). The monks seemed to have been the dominant inhabitants of the area for some time, documentary evidence indicates that they were allowed to build lodgings and sell food and that they were granted sole rights to ferry passengers across the Mersey to Liverpool. The priory was seized by the Crown under the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 (3). The estate was then purchased by Ralph Worsley in 1544 and was passed through the Worsley family until 1710 when the land was bought by John Cleveland, a Liverpool Merchant. The settlement remained small, described in 1819 by Ormerod as, "beautifully situated near the mouth of the estuary of the Mersey, opposite the town of Liverpool, at the side of Wallasey Pool, a large bay, which the Mersey forms at its confluence with the Birken" (4). By contrast, Bagshaw writing in 1850 described 1830s Birkenhead as, "a few straggling houses on a coast, bleak sterile, and uncompromising" (5). However, soon after Birkenhead saw a boom in development and population expansion, from 110 in 1801 to around 20,000 in 1850 (5). The expansion of the Liverpool docks during the early industrial revolution and

improved passage across the Mersey led to the colonisation of Birkenhead by the wealthy Liverpool merchants (6). By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, the historic settlement was completely obscured by residential and industrial expansion which engulfed other settlements such as Claughton and Tranmere.

The centre of Birkenhead was laid out as a formal planned development in the 1820s-1840s, under the guidance of William Laird, who also had the docks built in the tidal inlet to the north of Birkenhead.

One of the most forward-thinking aspects of this planned town centre was Birkenhead Park, the first public park to be created by a municipality anywhere in the world. It was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1847 (7).

Present landmarks:

Birkenhead Priory Chapel (medieval) founded by Baron Hamo de Massey in 1150 and dedicated to St James (8); now ruinous.

St Marys Church (1819-21) was funded by F.R. Price as part of the development of Birkenhead as a resort. It was designed by Thomas Rickman, and built from local red sandstone with some cast iron detailing. (9)

Woodside Hotel, built when Birkenhead was being developed as a resort rather than a commercial and industrial centre (8).

The Town Hall (1883-7) is a classical building with a portico supported on Corinthian columns. It also has a tall clock tower. It is one of the centrepieces of Hamilton Square (8). The houses on the square were built between 1825 and 1844. The earliest were those on the north and east sides of the square, with the north side completed first. The south and west sides were built between 1839 and 1844. The Lawton Map of 1844 shows all these houses, but a gap was left for the town hall. This parallels the building of Abercomby Square in Liverpool, a similar laid out square of the same period. Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Yard, moved from Wallasey in 1858 (4). (9)

Historic landmarks:

Birkenhead Manor (sixteenth century) was built on the site of the monastic hostel by Alice; the daughter of Ralph Worsley. A watermill is thought to have stood about half a mile inland near Woodside (4).

Medieval moated site (2), which may be related to a Manor house (1824 or earlier, marked on Lawton's map).

St Mary's Church (1819-21) designed by Thomas Rickman for F.R. Price. It is a red ashlar building, commanding a view of the River before the shipyards were built. It had an octagonal spire. The transepts were added in 1832-35 (8).

Woodside Ferry (1824 or earlier) marked on Lawton's map.



Market Hall, demolished as part of the development at the head of the Birkenhead (Queensway) Road Tunnel. Many early industrial workshops and yards, terraced houses and pubs have been demolished. (9)

Early Activity:

The earliest evidence of human activity is on the river inlet, between Seacombe and Birkenhead, although this area is now extensively developed by docks, finds in the locality include a Neolithic stone implement at Victoria Dock, two flint arrowheads at the Easy Float and evidence of a possible Roman wooden bridge at Bridge Street (9). A little further inland a bronze-age axe head was discovered in the nineteenth century in the area of Birkenhead Park (9)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Much of the land of Birkenhead was held by the monks of Birkenhead Priory in the post-medieval period (10). But after the dissolution of the monasteries the land was subdivided for use by yeoman farmers. Field name evidence suggests open field agriculture in the south of the township where around a junction and series of buildings are fields named "townfield", "loons" and "butts" all representing open field agriculture. Fields have clearly been subdivided, but shapes also follow the reverse S-shape of ridge and furrow. By the time of the Estate Map of 1824, several large farms followed fairly regular field division patterns. There was also an area of crofts in the west of the township, where fields have been enclosed piecemeal from areas of common land. Some of the current roads were established by the early nineteenth century, such as Slatey Road, and Ashville Road, which has since had Birkenhead Park established around it, but still follows the line recorded in the early nineteenth century.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

There are a few un-named collections of buildings within the township, such as one at the crossroads of Park Road West and Manor Hill.

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75  
Published 1882.  
Law's Town Plan 1844.  
Lawton's Map of Birkenhead Estate in the County of Chester 1824.

References:

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(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.

- (3) Pearson, J. Date 2002. *Wirral, an illustrated review*. The Bluecoat press. Liverpool.
- (4) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.
- (5) Bagshaw, S. 1850. *History, Gazeteer and Directory of the County Palatine of Chester*. Sheffield.
- (6) Lee, D. 2000. *A Short History of Birkenhead*.
- (7) Anon. n.d. *Birkenhead Park*. Metropolitan Borough of Wirral. Birkenhead.
- (8) Pevsner, N. And Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (9) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (10) McInniss, J. 1984. *Birkenhead Park*. Countywise Limited. Birkenhead.

## **Brimstage**

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 SW
NGR (centred):	SJ 304 827
District:	Wirral
Township:	Brimstage
Geology:	The underlying geology is Bunter Pebble Beds, in around half the township this is overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core is located at the junction of Brimstage Road and Brimstage Lane, in the area which still forms the core settlement of the township.
Origin of Name:	Brunestath Court (1260). Old English <i>Bruna-burgh</i> , Bruna's river-bank (1) or landing place from <i>Brūnan stæpa</i> (2). Brimstache 1275; Brunstach 1326; Bronstathe 1348; Brynstat 1387 (1).
Topography:	The township is relatively flat. There are some low-lying wetland areas in the north and west, and the very west corner of the township is cut by the Chester – Birkenhead railway line.
History:	The township was the settlement of the Domville family, recorded in the late nineteenth century as “one of the most important families in Cheshire history” (3). Through marriage the manor passed to the Hulse family, and then to the Troutbecks (3). In 1819, Ormerod visited and described the township as “bleak and moorish. It is watered by a small rivulet, which flows through the collection of straggling huts which compose the village” (4).
Present landmarks:	Brimstage Hall (1398) started by Sir Hugh Hulse and his wife, who obtained a licence for an oratory, which may be the section at the south end of the present building (5). There has been much rebuilding of the structure. It is thought that the area was once a moated site (6).
Historic landmarks:	The Avenues, laid out for the first Viscount Leverhulme in 1912-1914. Runs SSE-NNW to the east of the settlement. A windmill is recorded through associated fieldnames on the early maps of the township. It was situated in the south of the township. There is also thought to

have been a watermill to the north of the settlement core (7).

Early Activity: Two finds of flint artefacts have been made in the south of the township (7).  
Further evidence of early activity was revealed through the archaeological investigation of Brimstage Hall, where finds included considerable amounts of medieval and post-medieval pottery. (8)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Several post-medieval farms, barns and cottages remain in the settlement and the township (7).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.  
Brimstage Tithe Map. 1842.  
Shrewsbury Estate Map. 1789.

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(3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
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(7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.  
(8) Grove, J. and Philpott, R.A. 1992. *An Archaeological Investigation at Brimstage Hall, Wirral: April 1992 (Site 27)*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.

## Bromborough

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 SW
NGR (centred):	SJ 350 821
District:	Wirral
Township:	Bromborough
Geology:	Bunter Pebble Beds over much of the township, with some of the outskirts being overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core lies west of Bromborough Village Road centred at The Cross, which is the short road at the meeting point of Bromborough Road, Church Lane, Allport Lane, Village Road and High Street.
Origin of Name:	Brunburg (1100-35) Bruna's stronghold (1) From Old English personal name <i>burh</i> . Or from the Anglo-Saxon <i>brun</i> meaning brown or dark, with <i>burh</i> meaning fortress, the dark man's fortress (2). Bronbur 1153; Bromborough 1277; Brumburg 1280.
Topography:	This is a relatively low-lying flat area, which slopes gently down to the Mersey Estuary.
History:	<p>The settlement is thought to be medieval in origin and much later buildings have kept to the original medieval street plan.</p> <p>Place name evidence may link this settlement battle of Brunanburgh in 937 AD documented in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (3), although the exact location of the battle is unknown. Within Wirral, it is thought that it may have taken place near the shoreline, in an area now developed for industrial use. A monastery was established in Bromborough, west of the Saxon Church in 912 AD, it is thought by Aethelfleada, the daughter of Alfred the Great (3).</p> <p>Despite this early formation of the settlement, the township is not listed in the Domesday Book, but is thought to be listed under Eastham, and was held by Earl Hugh. It was then passed to the Abbot of St Werburgh in 1152, "...as a recompense for some injuries he had inflicted on the monks". It remained in their possession until the dissolution. Then it passed to Richard Cotton, from him through other families to the Mainwarings and the Hardwares (4). In 1770 the Mainwarings gained control of the whole manor (4). In 1819 Ormerod describes Bromborough, "an antient respectable village chiefly built with red stone ... [the</p>

hall's] grounds command an interesting view of the port of Liverpool, and terminate in a steep declivity and rich woods overhanging the ferry house of Eastham, beyond which opens by far the most delightful prospect which Wirral Hundred can boast, consisting of the broad expanse of the Mersey, seen over the woods of Hooton, and backed by the Lancashire shore and by the Eddisbury Hills" (5).

Present landmarks:

Church of St Barnabas (1862-4) by Sir Gilbert Scott was built to replace the short-lived smaller church which served the community after the demolition of the Saxon Church, which sat within a circular enclosure (6). This building described in 1847 as "ancient" and "lately demolished", thought to have been in 1829 (4). The early nineteenth century saw a huge rise in the settlement's population, like much of the coast of Wirral, this was caused by the growth of the port of Liverpool and improved steam ferry links across the Mersey. The settlement saw much development during this time, with the loss of much of the medieval and post-medieval elements of the village to make way for the population expansion (5).

Historic landmarks:

Bromborough Cross (Tenth century) stood on the short road The Cross, but was demolished and only fragments survived. These were re-erected in 1958 by the Bromborough Society.

Bromborough Court House (post medieval) was a moated monastic house and grange (7; 8) and was the seat of the Hardwares (4). It was possibly built on the site of a previous building, Bromborough Hall (Twelfth Century) (9).

Corn Mill which used the tide by Bromborough Pool, undershot wheel recorded in 1903, demolished in 1949. The mill pool and a mound were recorded at the site in 1978, and the area is now wooded. It was near one of the township's wells (3).

Early Activity:

A concentration of scattered flint finds has been discovered in the east of the township, on the foreshore (10). More recent archaeological evaluation of the area has not revealed any further similar finds (10). Roman coin of Domitian was found c.1900 (11).

Medieval activity was evidenced in excavation at Cowpasture Wood, around 1km from the settlement core (12).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Manor House Farm (possibly medieval, part rebuilt in 1676) is dated by a date stone in the garden, inscribed 'IB MB IB 1676'. The house was built by the Bagnell family, but it is thought that a house existed on this site prior to the farm house. The stone-built Manor House is

noted by Sulley as the resting place of Charles I after an escape from Chester (3).

Cross Farm (1699) has a date stone above the door inscribed 'IB.1699'. It is thought to have been built by John Bagnell.

rice's Candle Works (1853-58) in Bromborough Pool is a remnant of the nineteenth century candle-making industry Workers' Village (1850s) includes several rows of terraced houses, two managers' houses, a school, a village hall, and allotments.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

To the north-west of the settlement core is a group of buildings and plantations is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, known as Oakslands, Woodslee, Heathfield and Bromborough Mills.

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.

Bromborough Hall and Grounds Map 1851.

Bromborough Tithe Map 1850.

Court House Estate Map 1840.

Plan of Bromborough Village 1836.

Mainwaring Estate Map 1731.

References:

(1) Dodgson, J. 1972. English Place-names: Wirral Hundred

(2) Eckwall, E. 1960. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.

(3) Sulley, P. 1889. The Hundred of Wirral. B.Haram. Birkenhead.

(4) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. The History of the Hundred of Wirral. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.

(5) Roberts, S. 2002. A History of Wirral. Phillimore. Chichester.

(6) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard. E. 1971. The Buildings of England: Cheshire. Penguin. Harmondsworth.

(7) Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society

Volume 2 (8) Adams, M. and Ahmad, C. 2004. An Archaeological Watching Brief at Bromborough Court Moat, Wirral, Merseyside. National Museums Liverpool. Liverpool.

(9) Hanshall, J.H. 1823. Itinerary of the County: The Parish of Bromborough.

(10) Hodgkinson, D.F. 1994. Cowpasture Wood, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside. LUAU. Lancaster.

(11) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. A History of the County of Chester. Victoria County History. University of London.

- (12) Fletcher, M. 1995. Croft Business Park, Merseyside. Lancaster University Archaeology Unit. Lancaster.
- (13) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.



## Caldy

Urban/Rural Fringe Report: Rural

OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NW
NGR (centred):	Caldy SJ 226 853 Lower Caldyc SJ 237 855
District:	Wirral
Township:	Caldy
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone overlain in the south of the township by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	Around Caldyc Manor House, on the bend of Caldyc Road and a little way south onto Caldyc Drive.
Origin of Name:	Calders (1086). Cold hill (1) or cold arse – referring to a hill name (2). From Old English <i>cald-ears</i> . Caldeirs 1136; Caldei 1182; Cawedy 1606.
Topography:	Caldyc sits on a hill, with a high point of 77m. There is a considerable amount of forested common land, and the peak of Caldyc Hill is owned by the National Trust. The township slopes down to the Dee estuary.
History:	Robert of Rhuddlan was recorded as holding Calders in the Domesday Book (3). His heirs assumed the name Thurstanston in the thirteenth century. The manor was divided and the other half went to the Haselwalle and Calveley families. By marriage the lands passed to the Whitmore family, and were then bought in the nineteenth century by Richard Barton (4).
Present landmarks:	Caldyc Manor House (seventeenth century, remodelled 1907), is a Sandstone manor house (5). It is now incorporated into Caldyc Manor Hospital along with the seventeenth century Dower House. Resurrection and All Saints (1868) is a church which was originally built as a school, but which had a chancel and tower added in 1906 to convert it into a church (5).
Historic landmarks:	A windmill (seventeenth century or earlier) is thought to have stood to the south-west of the settlement, around half way to the estuary. Its existence is recorded in fieldnames on the 1844 Tithe Map. (6) School (mid-nineteenth century) recorded on 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882.
Early Activity:	Spot finds in the township include a Mesolithic blade on Caldyc Hill, a fragment of a Bronze Age socketed

axe, and a Romano-British coin, both on the foreshore.  
(6)

Significant Post-Med Activity: There are several post-medieval buildings in the settlement, including Sunny Fold (1698) and Manor Farm (1683) (6). The former is a sandstone house with mullioned windows, and decorative date panel. It has been used as an inn and a post office. The latter is of similar style, but has been more altered. The “spacious residential development” around the settlement core was built in the early twentieth century (5).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Lower Caldy is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6” OS map, published 1882, to the east of the settlement core.

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6” OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.  
Caldy Tithe Map 1844.

References:

(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Philimore. London.  
(4) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Caldy*.  
(5) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Claughton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 305 886
District:	Wirral
Township:	Claughton-cum-Grange
Geology:	Keuper Sandstone is partly overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	Consisted of dispersed farm site settlement. From the Tithe Map concentrations existed in the area of the current junction of Edgerton Road/ Park Road West/ Park Road South and also within the current junction area of Upton Road/ Park Road West area.
Origin of Name:	Clahton (1260). Town on a rock or hillock (1) or Farm on a rock or hillock (2). From Old Norse <i>klakkr tūn</i> . Claghton 1272; Clatton 1282; Clayton 1303 (2).
Topography:	Claughton is situated on a rise, sloping down towards Birkenhead Park.
History:	<p>The settlement of Claughton is not mentioned in the Domesday Book; however, it is listed as part of the endowments of Birkenhead Priory in the twelfth century (3). At the time of the dissolution the land along with the priory and other estates was granted to Ralph Worsley (4; 5).</p> <p>The 1842 Tithe Map indicates that the township of Claughton was divided between two parishes, Woodchurch and Bidston. The township was sparsely populated during this time, the land was mainly utilised for farming with dispersed settlement. The main settlement core seems have been established within the parish of Bidston. It consisted of a handful of houses and farm buildings, divided between the landowners; Francis Richard Price, Joseph Harrison, and William Jackson.</p> <p>By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, the settlement of Claughton is virtually impossible to distinguish from the urban development of Birkenhead with villa developments to the south of the park and east of Oxtan.</p>
Present landmarks:	Birkenhead Park (1843) was an early example of a metropolitan park, and reputedly formed a prototype for Central Park in New York. Some features within the

park, including gate piers, a drinking fountain and an Italian Lodge (6).  
Christ Church (1844-49) is a gothic red ashlar church, by William Jearrad (7).  
Birkenhead Park Railway Station (1888).  
The historic character of the township is retained through the large number of Victorian houses and villas around the area of Birkenhead Park.

- Historic landmarks: Old Hall on Cannon Hill, which later became known as Claughton Farm, marked on 1842 Tithe map (5).  
Claughton Hall (mid-nineteenth-century) was a manor house in Italian style, demolished and post-war housing built on site (5).  
Toad Hole Farm (post medieval) is marked on early maps, but the area is now completely redeveloped with modern housing and shops.
- Early Activity: The earliest finds in the township are a group of eight flint implements Bronze Age Barrow and a Middle Bronze Age unlooped palstave discovered within Birkenhead Park, now at Williamson Art Gallery (8).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: There are some remains of post-medieval activity, including 98 Tollemache Road, a small late sixteenth- or early seventeenth-century sandstone house.
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None
- Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-5. Published 1882.  
Claughton Tithe Map 1842.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Birkenhead*.  
(4) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.  
(5) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(6) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Philimore. Chichester.  
(7) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(8) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.

## Eastham

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 SE
NGR (centred):	Eastham SJ 360 800 Eastham Ferry SJ 364 818
District:	Wirral
Township:	Eastham
Geology:	The geology consists of Bunter Sandstone and Pebble Beds. This is overlain by boulder clay over around half of the township, and alluvial deposits are present in the estuarine area near Eastham Ferry, in the north of the township.
Historic Core:	The historic core of Eastham lies on the junction of the roads: Eastham Village Road, Stanley Lane, Church Lane and Ferry Road.
Origin of Name:	Estham (1086) Eastern homestead or Eastern meadow (1). From Old English <i>east</i> and <i>hām</i> . Estham c1100 (1).
Topography:	This relatively flat area slopes down towards the estuary of the River Mersey. The Eastham locks in the estuary provide access to the Manchester Ship Canal. The west of the township is cut by the railway line and the M53 motorway skirts across the south of the township.
History	Eastham is recorded in the Domesday Book as being held by Hugh Lupus. Until around 1150 the township was inferior to adjacent Bromborough, and they shared a church (2). Around that time the township passed into the possession of the Abbey of St Werburgh, and at this time a church was built (2). The township remained in the control of the Abbey until the dissolution, when it passed to the Cotton family and was sold on to the Stanleys, who sold it in the nineteenth century (2). Most of the standing buildings in the village are nineteenth Century.
Present landmarks:	St Mary's Church may contain twelfth century material, but the spire was rebuilt in the 1750s, and it was "drastically" restored in the 1870s (3). Eastham Ferry Hotel (1845) built by Sir William Massey, contains some early Victorian detailing, and a later wooden veranda (3). Carlett Park (1859-60), described by Pevsner as, "brick and thoroughly bad" (3). It is built on the site of a post-

medieval quarry. The chapel is now incorporated into the Technology College.

- Historic landmarks: Vicarage (nineteenth century) is thought to be built on the site of a medieval Tithe Barn.  
A mill is recorded in the Domesday Book (2); this may be one which was sited adjacent to the nursery on New Chester Road, just to the north of Junction 5 of the M53 motorway.
- Early Activity: Spot finds have included a Bronze Age looped palstave, now at Grosvenor Museum (4), and three Roman coins (5).  
The rural nature of the area in the medieval period is evidenced through the presence of a fishpond and a hunting lodge located near the present Railway Station and Carlett College respectively.
- Significant Post-Med Activity: The primary settlement of Eastham expanded in the post-medieval period, but the most significant development was the creation of the new Eastham Ferry, including the hotel (see above: present landmarks) and a stone built ferry terminal (5). There has been considerable encroachment to the surrounding countryside in the last fifty years. This is most evident at the Queen Elizabeth II oil dock to the east of the village.
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: Eastham Ferry is a coastal settlement, marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, to the north of the village settlement core, along the still extant road, Ferry Road.
- Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872-74 Published 1882.  
Eastham Tithe Map 1843.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*.  
(3) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(4) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.  
(5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Frankby

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 244 867
District:	Wirral
Township:	Frankby
Geology:	The solid geology comprises Keuper Sandstone and Bunter Sandstone, in most of the township this is overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	Small settlement on the bend of Frankby Road, at junction of Hillbark Road and The Nook.
Origin of Name:	Frankeby (1230). Frankl's or Franki's village (1; 2). Old Norse personal name and <i>býr</i> . Alternatively Frenchman's farm (2). Fraunkbi 1346; Fraunkeley 1421 (2).
Topography:	Low-lying flat land in the north slopes uphill to the south, to Frankby Hill, with a high point of about 50m.
History:	Frankby was part of the manor of Upton until the early seventeenth century, and is not listed separately in the Domesday Book. It was in the possession of the Orreby family in the reign of King John (1199 – 1216), and then passed through the Praers and Bold families to Robert Davies who sold it to Peter Day. It then passed through a series of local owners, to Colonel Gray who held in manor in the nineteenth century. (3)
Present landmarks:	Frankby Hall (1846-7) is a red ashlar stone house with castellations and turrets. The grounds are converted into a cemetery, and the hall used as a chapel, with gothic windows inserted in 1938-9 (4). St John Divine (1861-2) is a red ashlar sandstone church by W. & J. Hay (4). It was paid for by Mr Barton of Caldy (3). Hill Bark (1868) stands on Frankby Hill.
Historic landmarks:	Hall (c.1680) was itself a rebuild of an earlier hall on the site (5), the site is now occupied by the chapel of Frankby Cemetery. The Tithe Barn (post medieval) was sited at the top of Frankby Hill, on the site now occupied by Hill Bark (6).
Early Activity:	Flint fragments and part of a Roman brooch found in the south of the township near Frankby Mere. A

tanged-and-barbed arrowhead has been found to the north of the settlement core (6).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Several post-medieval farms are extant in the township. Field enclosure took place gradually in the post medieval period, but medieval ridge and furrow is still evident in field patterns (7).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882. Frankby Tithe Map 1844.

References:

- (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
- (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.
- (3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.
- (4) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (7) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Philimore. London.



## Gayton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	SJ 273 804
District:	Wirral
Township:	Gayton
Geology:	Triassic Bunter Lower Mottled Sandstone which outcrops in the settlement core and the north east of the township, overlain by Boulder Clay in the rest of the township.
Historic Core:	The historic core is centred on the junction of Gayton Road, Gayton Farm Road and Cottage Lane.
Origin of Name	Gaitone (1086). Farmstead where goats are kept or goat enclosure. From Scandinavian form of Old Norse <i>Gata-tun</i> (1). Gayton 1244 and Geyton 1286 (1).
Topography:	Situated on slope down from around 70m in the east to the Dee Estuary in the west.
History:	Gayton was included with Heswall in a grant to Robert of Rhuddlan. He is recorded as holding Gayton in the Domesday Book (2). It reverted to the Crown in the twelfth century, and was passed to the monks of Vale Royal Cistercian Abbey. They exchanged it with Randle de Merton for other lands. The manor remained in the male line of the Mertons until 1758. The family were visited in 1689 by King William III. (2)
Present landmarks:	Gayton Hall (seventeenth century) was encased in brick around 1750, and has the appearance of a brick-built Georgian house. It is on an earlier moated site (3).
Historic landmarks:	Windmill (c.1760) built of red sandstone, last used around the 1880s. It was the subject correspondence in the 1950s between Elaine Tankard (Keeper of Archaeology, Liverpool Museum), Ministry of Works, SPAB, and the Royal Commission. Recorded as being derelict and dangerous, but listed in 1978, and by 2000 had been remodelled as part of a house (3).
Early Activity:	The earliest finds in this township are three Bronze Age stone tools, and a Romano-British coin (3).

Significant Post-Med Activity: A coin of Henry VIII has been found in the township. Much of the development in the township has been nineteenth and twentieth century housing (3).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872-74. Published 1882.

References:

(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.  
(3) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Grange

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 222 868
District:	Wirral
Township:	Grange
Geology:	Keuper Sandstone and Bunter Sandstone overlain in the north and east of the township by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The street layout of the historic core has been lost, but lay in the are of the current Black Horse Hill, Grafton Walk and Lang Lane.
Origin of Name:	The township was originally named Calders (1). It was a grange of the Basingwerk Abbey (2).
Topography:	Low land in the north and east rises towards Grange Hill in the south west.
History:	At Domesday Hugh de Mara was recorded as holding Calders (1). It was later controlled by the Earls of Chester, who passed it to the convent of Basingwerke, but then resumed control of it and passed it to John Glegg, and it remained in that family until 1785, when most of it was sold to John Shaw Leigh, a Liverpool merchant (1).
Present landmarks:	New House Farm (early-mid seventeenth century) is a sandstone farmhouse with mullioned windows in the township. War Memorial (1920s) on Grange Hill (4).
Historic landmarks:	Caldy Grange School (1636) was built with money from William Glegg. It was demolished in 1861, and a modern school now stands on the site (5). Grange Hall / Ancient Hall (late sixteenth century) was a stone manor house, home to the Glegg family, it was demolished by 1819 (2), but the coach house still remains. (5) The Mill (medieval) is recorded in the will of Robert Radcliffe of 1569 as being within his possession (5). A Smithy is marked on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882.
Early Activity:	A spot find of worked flint on Grange Hill is the only evidence of early archaeology in the township. (5)

Significant Post-Med Activity: In the post-medieval period the township was primarily agricultural, and several farm houses remain (5).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882.  
Grange Tithe Map 1847.  
Leigh Estate map 1832.  
Glegg Estate map 1742.

References;

(1) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(4) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. London.  
(5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## **Greasby**

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 253 872
District:	Wirral
Township:	Greasby
Geology:	Red Marl Sandstone completely overlain by Boulder Clay and Waterstones partially overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core was established at the junctions of Old Pump Lane, Greasby Road and Mill Lane (1).
Origin of Name:	Gravesberie (1086). Stronghold by a grove, trench or canal (2) or wood (3). From Old English <i>grāf</i> and <i>burh</i> adapted to <i>grāf</i> and <i>býr</i> in Old Norse. Grauisby 1096; Griseby 1280; Graysby 1610 (Speed) (3).
Topography:	Greasby is situated on gently undulating land in the centre of the Wirral peninsula.
History:	At Domesday Niel is recorded as holding Gravesberie (4). It was held by successive lords who each donated the tithes to the Monks of St Werburgh. The first Lord is recorded as 'Dunning', it was later held by Hugh Lupus, who then passed on the lordship to Nigellus de Burceio at the time of the Domesday Book. During the late thirteenth century, the subsequent landowner, Robert de Rullos, awarded the whole township to the Monks of St Werburgh, with whom it remained until the dissolution (4).
Present landmarks:	Iron Cross (1862) was placed in the centre of the village to replicate an earlier, possibly medieval, cross on the site. Manor Farm (c.1680) a red sandstone and brick building with associated barns. It has also been known as Greasby House and The Manor. (5) Pump on Pump Lane (late nineteenth century) (6).
Historic landmarks:	Greasby Old Hall (medieval) located on Frankby Road. The Monks of St Werburgh were established at the Hall until 1540. (5) Wall-paintings were discovered there in the 1990s. Irby Mill Hill Farm (1694) was probably demolished in 1898

Greasby Boys and Girls School (nineteenth century) (5), located along Greasby Road, is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, but now replaced by semi-detached housing.

Early Activity:

Roman pottery and three coins have been discovered towards the south of the settlement (5). Roman coins have also been discovered in the township (5). A Victorian excavation is thought to have revealed a Roman road (7).

Greasby Old Hall (early seventeenth century) may have medieval origins and has late medieval structural fabric and could also have been moated, although this is not based on archaeological evidence (1).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Along with the post-medieval buildings mentioned above there are remnants of post-medieval buildings extant, such as a timber-framed barn now encased in brick, which stands at the corner of Mill Lane and Greasby Road. (5)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75 Published 1882.  
Greasby Tithe Map 1849.  
Bryant's Map of Cheshire 1831.

References:

- (1) Falkingham, G & Irvine, J. *Land East of Pump Lane, Greasby, Wirral*. Unpublished.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
- (3) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.
- (4) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Williams, J. 1978. *The Story of Greasby*.
- (7) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.

## Great Meols

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 29 SE
NGR (centred):	Great Meols SJ 228 900 (north) SJ 224 897 (south) SJ 231 901
District:	Wirral
Township:	Great Meols
Geology:	Alluvium and wind-blown sand are the only geological materials present on the surface, where the solid geology is not evidenced.
Historic Core:	The settlement developed around the crossroads of Birkenhead Road, Shaws Drive, Forest Road, and Roman Road.
Origin of Name:	Melas (1086). Sand dune (1), or the sandhills (2). From Old Norse (1). Prefix Great- in use by 1594, previously <i>supra</i> (2).
Topography:	Great Meols sits on a low-lying flat former beach on the north coast of the Wirral.
History:	At Domesday Robert of Rhuddlan was recorded as holding Melas (3). From him it passed to the Meolse family, who continued to hold the manor until the seventeenth century, when it passed to Charles Hough and through the marriage of his grand-daughter Jane to a Liverpool surgeon, John Ramsbottom (3).
Present landmarks:	Lesowe Lighthouse (1763) was noted in the nineteenth century as the “oldest lighthouse in England” (4). It was built by William Gregson, the Mayor of Liverpool, and originally used coal fires for illumination (4). An archaeological excavation in 2007 to examined the buildings which were known to have stood on the site in the late 19th and early 20th century. The community dig revealed a series of structures at the base of the lighthouse and related finds. (5) Seafront Embankment (1829) was designed to prevent flooding; it has since been heavily rebuilt.
Historic landmarks:	The manor house (c. fourteenth century AD) is reputed to have stood at Dove Point (4). A pilotage beacon (undated) is marked on Bryant’s map of Cheshire, published 1831, at the junction of Roman Road and Meols Parade.

Early Activity:	The key area for early activity in Great Meols is the foreshore. Meols Foreshore has revealed evidence of a submerged forest (3), and Mesolithic and Neolithic flint artefacts. The numbers of artefacts suggest a Mesolithic hunting / gathering community on the foreshore (6). Thousands of artefact (c 4000 plus 1000 coins) from the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods were retrieved from the foreshore - including large amounts of metal work (Romano-British brooches and coins - numbered around seventy by the 1880s, fifteen of which are preserved in Warrington Museum (7). Evidence of settlement remains (seen in nineteenth century) plus artefacts attesting the site of a port in the Roman period, and subsequent market in the medieval period (8). Around the township there have also been finds of a Neolithic pottery sherd, it is a body piece of red-brown gritted fabric, it has patterning of whipped cord impressions in parallel lines, now in Grosvenor Museum (9), and a Roman stone spindle whorl.
Significant Post-Med Activity:	The township was primarily a farming community in the post-medieval period, and several farmhouses, cottages and barns are still extant in the township.
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None  None
Maps:	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 6. Surveyed 1871. Published 1881. 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882. Great Meols Tithe Map 1844.
References:	(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names</i> . Oxford University Press. London. 4 <sup>th</sup> ed. (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. <i>English Place-names: Wirral Hundred</i> . (3) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. <i>The Hundred of Wirral</i> . Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead. (4) Sulley, P. 1889. <i>The Hundred of Wirral</i> . B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead. (5) Ahmad, C., Harthen, D., Philpott, R. <i>et al.</i> 2008 <i>An Archaeological Community Excavation at Leasowe Lighthouse, Great Meols, Wirral (Site 106)</i> . National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit. Liverpool. (6) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. <i>The Buildings of England: Cheshire</i> . Penguin. Harmondsworth. (7) Cowell, R.W. and Philpott, R.A. 2000. <i>Prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval Settlement in Lowland North West England</i> . National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.



(8) Griffiths, D, Philpott, R & Egan, G 2007. *Meols - the Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast. Discoveries and observations in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a catalogue of collections*. Oxford University School of Archaeology: Monograph 68.

(9) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.

## Heswall

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	Lower Village SJ 266 812 Heathmount SJ 269 815 The Slack SJ 273 817
District:	Wirral
Township:	Heswall-cum-Oldfield
Geology:	Keuper Sandstone partly overlain by Bunter Sandstone. Near the River Dee estuary and this is overlain by Boulder Clay, and some Sand and Gravel.
Historic Core:	In the area now known as Lower Village, along Village Road, adjacent to St Peter's Church and the Post Office. Settlement also around junctions of School Hill, Dee View Rd, the Mount.
Origin of Name:	Eswelle (1086). Hazel Spring (1; 2). From Old Norse <i>hesli wælla</i> (2). Haselwell 1190; Hosewall 1398; Weswall 1418.
Topography:	Sloping township from high point at 107m in the east down to the River Dee estuary in the west.
History:	Robert of Rhuddlan held Eswelle at the time of the Domesday Book (3). In 1277 it became property of Patrick de Haselwall, Sheriff of Chester (3). In 1403 the manor passed, by marriage, into the Davenport family, in whose control it remained until the mid-nineteenth century (3). Ormerod described Heswall in 1819 as, "situated on the shore of the Dee, along which they present a fertile tract of meadow ground, which gradually changes to a dreary and barren flat as it advances inwards; to the north east this rises into a wild and rocky moor, immediately under which the parish church is situated commanding the estuary and environed by hills and farms mostly of stone, rude in their structure, and placed in great disorder" (4).
Present landmarks:	St Peter's Church, Lower Heswall (thirteenth century) was described in the late nineteenth century as "much altered, and almost wholly rebuilt, at various periods" (5). It is built of red sandstone, and the earliest material is late thirteenth century (6). Ormerod described the way in which the weathered sandstone has been

replaced with brick creating a “chequered appearance” in the late nineteenth century (5).

- Historic landmarks: Railway Station (nineteenth century) on the West Kirby to Hooton Line, demolished in mid 1960s, when the track was removed (7).  
Tytherington’s Folly (1870) a large Victorian crenulated building, was used as an orphanage. It was sometimes known as Heswall Castle, demolished in the 1930s. Castle Buildings were built on part of the site in 1936. (7)  
Cottage (sixteenth century) at the junction of Station Road and Gayton Road. (7)  
Royal Liverpool Children’s Hospital (Victorian) demolished in 1991.
- Early Activity: Early finds include a Bronze Age dagger, a Romano-British coin of Antonius Pius (8), a Romano-British dagger, Romano-British ceramics, three Romano-British brooches and several medieval coins. These have tended to be by the shore and on the sloping land known as the Dales (7).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: In 1877 Heswall was described as “having become a favourite place of resort in the summer by the residents of Liverpool and Birkenhead” (6). It was at this time that the settlement started to expand, eventually into a large suburban area.
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: Two smaller settlements are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6” OS map, published 1882: Heathmout to the north-east of the settlement core and The Slack to the north-west of Heathmont. The Slack is marked with its own Wesleyan Chapel.
- Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6” OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872-74. Published 1882.  
Heswall Tithe Map 1851.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.  
(4) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.  
(5) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Heswall*.  
(6) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.

(7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

(8) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.

## Higher Bebington

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 SW
NGR (centred):	Higher Bebington SJ 318 847 Woodhey SJ 325 857 Rock Ferry SJ 332 864
District:	Wirral
Township:	Higher Bebington
Geology:	Keuper Sandstone, which outcrops in the settlement, but is overlain in the rest of the township by Triassic Bunter Sandstone and Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The post-medieval core of the settlement developed around a large square green with town fields to the north and east (1). The key roads were Village Road, and Teehey Lane.
Origin of Name:	Bedintone (1096). Bebbā's farm (2) Personal name <i>Bebba tūn</i> (2). Higher prefix in use by 1724, previously Superior, Upper or Over: Overbubynton (1342) (2). Bebinton 1280; Bebington 1666 (2).
Topography:	The old village of Higher Bebington lies on the sheltered east-facing slopes of Storeton Hill above the 60m contour. The township is r-shaped, and extends down a gentle slope to the River Mersey, north of Lower Bebington. This division reflects the value of coastline as a fishing resource and means of communication (1).
History:	The townships of 'Higher' and 'Lower' Bebington were probably formed as one manor, later subdivided. The Anglo-Saxon place name suggests that the date of the town could be as early as the seventh century Mercian colonisation of the Wirral (1). Higher Bebington is not recorded in the Domesday Book, the first reference to Higher Bebington occurred in the thirteenth century when part of the vill was held by the de Bebington family (1). This family continues to hold the manor until the male line died out in the late fourteenth century, it was then passed by marriage to John Minshull of Minshull, and after several generations it again passed by marriage to the Cholmondeley family (3). It was sold in 1736 to the Whites of Sutton and the Orreds of Chester, who held it jointly for a time. In 1810 Orred claimed the manor after a legal battle. The township did undergo the nineteenth-century population increase

common to many of the urban areas in the east of Wirral, but this was concentrated in the secondary settlement area of Rock Ferry. A ferry slipway was built in Rock Ferry c.1820 by Thomas Morecroft of Liverpool (4). The Storeton tramway, constructed 1837-8 looped through the township, avoiding the village, and continuing to the wharf at Bromborough Quay. There are two extant buildings which mark its line: Firtree Cottages on Cross Lane. In 1840 the Chester to Birkenhead Railway was built, dissecting the township, some small settlements grew up in association with this, such as Primrose Hill and New Ferry Gate.

- Present landmarks: Old Hall Farm (1668, but considerably rebuilt. Currently the British Legion Club) follows the line of the original Teehey Lane, the former main street in the settlement. Original features include stone mullioned windows and a date tablet.  
Christ Church (1857-9) by Walter Scott, in late thirteenth century style. Steeple added in 1885 (5). There are numerous stone cottages, of probable eighteenth century date, along Village Road, Teehay Lane and Mill Road (6).  
St Peter's Church (1841-2) by Hurst and Moffat in Norman style (2; 5).  
Rock Park, a private residential estate. It was laid out in 1836-7 by Jonathon Bennison and completed in 1850 (5).
- Historic landmarks: A windmill between School Lane and Mill Brow, and is marked on the Tithe Map of 1844 and the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1882 (7). This building was constructed of brick. It was demolished in 1971, but the ground plan of brick and a millstone were still present on the site in 1978. 21-23 Mill Brow are remnants of outbuildings of the former mill.  
There were a group of post-medieval buildings on Prospect Hill until the 1970s (1).  
Quarry to the south of the settlement core. (6)
- Early Activity: There is evidence of Bronze Age and Roman activity near the settlement, just south of Higher Bebington in an area utilised for sandstone quarrying. A Neolithic polished stone axe head and a Roman coin were also discovered in the township further towards the coast, at Rock Ferry (6).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: The post medieval settlement developed around a large square green with town fields to the north and east. The main village street may have been Teehey Lane, but only Old Hall Farm now sits on that street line. Although little remains from the post-medieval period with exception of the settlement street plan, and a few buildings (1).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

There are scattered houses throughout this township, one area of settlement is marked on the 1st Edition 6" OS map as Woodhey, a place name still used in streets in the area. This secondary settlement lies to the north east of the settlement core of Higher Bebington. Rock Ferry, a coastal resort with 1840s pier, bathhouses, hotel and pleasure ground is marked on the 1st Edition 6" OS map on the coast to the north east of the settlement core. Rock Park, a formal estate of houses built between 1837 and 1850 (8).

Maps:

1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.

References:

- (1) Chitty, G. 1983. Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report. Merseyside County Council.
- (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. English Place-names: Wirral Hundred.
- (3) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. The Hundred of Wirral. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (4) Sulley, P. 1889. The Hundred of Wirral. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.
- (5) Pevsner, N and Hubbard, E. 1971. The Buildings of England: Cheshire. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (7) Gopsill, F.P. 1984. Higher Bebington and its School 1845-1913. Gopsill. Wirral.
- (8) Roberts, S. 2002. A History of Wirral. Phillimore. London.

## Hoose

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 218 894
District:	Wirral
Township:	Hoose
Geology:	Alluvium and wind-blown sand.
Historic Core	Historic core lies along Market Street/Birkenhead Road, between the roads Trinity Road and Chapel Road. By the Tithe Map of 1840 there was also an area to the north of Grove Road.
Origin of Name:	Hose (1270). The hollows. From hyll or hōh. Howes 1346; Hooles 1539; Hoose 1629 (1).
Topography:	On a low-lying flat former beach on the north cost of the Wirral. It has a sea cost to the north.
History:	Hoose is the smallest township in the hundred, and never formed a manor. The earliest record of it is in 1579, when it was the property of Randle Probye. From him it passed via John Field of Bidston to the Glegg family of Irby. In the early nineteenth century it changed hands numerous times, from Samuel Baxter to Charles Monk to J.T. Swainson and finally separated out to a number of people (2).
Present landmarks:	Coastguard station (1858), built on the site of a previous coastguards house. (3)
Historic landmarks	Holy Trinity Church and vicarage (1833) by James Picton, for Swainson (2). The buildings have been demolished, but the churchyard survives. (3)
Early Activity:	The earliest surviving evidence in the township is post-medieval chapels, with no prehistoric spot finds. (3)
Significant Post-Med Activity:	The township operated as a farming community in the post medieval period.
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None



Maps: 1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882.  
Hoose Tithe Map 1840.

References: (1) Dodgson, J. 1972. English Place-names: Wirral Hundred.  
(2) Sulley, P. 1889. The Hundred of Wirral. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(3) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Irby

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	Irby SJ 256 844 Irby Hill SJ 252 858
District:	Wirral
Township:	Irby
Geology:	Keuper Waterstones and Red Marl, overlain by Boulder Clay in parts of the township.
Historic Core:	The historic core runs along Thingwall Road and centres around the junction with Thurstaston Road.
Origin of Name:	Erberia (1096). Village(1) or farm (2) of the Irish (1). From <i>iri býr</i> . Irreby 1096; lireby 1232.
Topography:	The north of the township is centred around Irby Hill which peaks at around 70m. The south of the township has an undulating topography with high points of 88m and 77m in the south-west and south-east of the township respectively.
History:	The township is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but is probably recorded as part of Great Caldý or Thurstaston. It is recorded as being granted to the Abbey of St Werburgh by Hugh Lupus in 1093 (3). That monastery held the manor until the dissolution. After the dissolution it was held by Sir R. Cotton, and sold by him to John Harpur. In the late sixteenth century it was bought by Thomas Leigh. In the late seventeenth century it passed to the Glegg family, who held it until the late nineteenth century (3).
Present landmarks	Irby Hall (early seventeenth century) restored in the late nineteenth century. The building has a timber-framed frontage with local-style diagonal timbering, and side and back walls of local sandstone with stone mullioned windows. It is H-shaped in plan (4). The site may be that of a medieval moated enclosure. Irby Farm (1612) altered in 1731, with associated buildings, also thought to be early eighteenth century (5).
Historic landmarks:	Windmill (dated 1773) demolished in 1898 (5). Manor Farm (eighteenth century) on site of present library. Red sandstone building with stone mullioned windows, demolished in 1960s (5).

Village stocks, reconstructed on a lawn near the library from two grooved posts, previously built into a wall, which are thought to be remnants from the original stocks. (5)

A medieval well to the west of Irby Hall, across a field; now overgrown (5).

Early Activity:

The earliest finds in this township are two pieces of worked flint (5). In the settlement core there have been metalwork finds, adjacent to the rectory, they include Romano-British brooches, Romano-British coins, and a bronze key (5).

The most extensive evidence for early settlement in the township is the work which has been done at Irby. A Romano-British farmstead site has been identified in an area now taken by modern housing. Excavation of the site has been necessarily scattered, due to the present site usage, but structural elements such as postholes and ditches have been located, and these have been augmented with discovery of sherds of Roman pottery (6,7). There is evidence for earlier occupation from the mid-Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. Possible Viking (placename evidence) and early medieval settlement, up until the fourteenth century, continued at the site, suggested from a range of finds recovered (5).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The township was primarily a farming community, and post medieval sites include extant farms, a shippon, barns, and the site of a smithy is recorded. (5)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

There is a concentration of farms, cottages, sites of wells, and medieval finds around Irby Hill (5).

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13 Surveyed 1845-75 Published 1882.

References

- (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
- (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.
- (3) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Irby*.
- (4) Pevsner, N and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Philpott, R. 1993. *Archaeology North West: A Romano-British Farmstead at Irby, Wirral, and its Place in the Landscape*.
- (7) Philpott, R. Adams, M. 2010. *Irby, Wirral Excavations on a Late Prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval Site, 1987-96*. National Museums Liverpool.

## Landican

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 282 856
District:	Wirral
Township:	Landican
Geology:	Triassic Sandstone, overlain in the north and east of the township with boulder clay.
Historic Core:	Along Landican Lane/Woodchurch Lane where it meets with Landican Road.
Origin of Name:	<p>Landeche (1086). The church of St Tecan (1) or Tegan's Church (2). From <i>Llan</i>, meaning church in Welsh and the saints or personal name <i>Tegan</i>. Alternative ending is <i>decem</i> meaning ten in Latin or <i>decanus</i>, a dean (3). Alternatively <i>Landeche</i> meaning the church of the oak. Landekan 1240; Lankekan 1347; Lancan 1539.</p> <p>It is possible that the medieval 'Landican' could have been located elsewhere, or referred to a larger area. Early documentary evidence links Landican with other villages in the area such as Arrowse and Woodchurch, and it is possible that the church suggested actually existed in one of these villages (4).</p>
Topography:	Located near the centre of the Wirral peninsula, on a gentle slope up to the south west.
History:	<p>The settlement of Landeche is recorded in the Domesday Book as being held by William de Moaldenberg (or Malbank), on his death the manor was passed onto his daughter, Phillippa and then her daughter until there were no further heirs and the estate reverted back to the Crown (5). It was then purchased by successive landlords and seems to have been an important administrative centre (6). Historic cartographic and documentary evidence indicates that the actual number of its inhabitants remained low, with only a total of 8 hearths being recorded in the hearth tax records of 1662-89 (6).</p>
Present landmarks:	In the settlement are several post-medieval farm buildings: Home Farm and Old Hall Farm, The Poplars and Farm View.

In the township there is an extensive cemetery (1934) on a flat area of land in the north west of the township. It includes chapels and a crematorium (7).

Historic landmarks: Windmill (possibly medieval) which stood to the west of the settlement core is evidenced through fieldnames: Mill Field, Little Mill Field and Top Mill Field (7).  
Fishpond (medieval) north of Landican Lane; now somewhat overgrown with reeds, and used by cattle as drinking pond (7).

Early Activity: A Romano-British coins have been discovered in Landican. An undated quern has been discovered near Landican Lane to the north of the settlement core. (7)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Farming seems to be the most significant activity during the Post-medieval period, the majority of farm buildings being positioned along Landican Lane/Woodchurch Lane and south of the village core at Old Hall Farm (7).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75 Published 1882.  
Landican Tithe Map 1847.  
Bryant's Map of Cheshire 1831.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(4) *Wirral Conservation Areas*. March 1998.  
(5) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Landican*.  
(6) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.  
(7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Liscard

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban
OS map Sheet:	SJ 39 SW
NGR (centred):	Liscard SJ 306 920 (possible medieval settlement by Earlston Road/Kirkway) SJ 306 929 Egremont SJ 316 921
District:	Wirral
Township:	Liscard
Geology:	The solid geology of Keuper Sandstone and Bunter Pebble Beds are mostly overlain by Boulder Clay, except in the area around the secondary settlement of New Brighton.
Historic Core:	There are two historic cores for Liscard, the earliest, medieval core could have been centred around the early Manor House, as marked on the 1841 Tithe map, in the site now occupied by the library at the junction of Earlston Road and Kirkway. The second, nineteenth century centre is thought to have developed along Liscard Road, centred at the junction of Liscard Way, Seaview Road, Wallasey Road and Liscard Village and branching off along Martins Lane from Liscard Way/Road. This forms the present centre of the settlement, but there are few signs of the early character here.
Origin of Name:	Lisnekarke (c.1260). Hall on a cliff (1) or rock (2). From Welsh <i>Llys carreg</i> (1). Liscak 1260; Lisecair c.1277; Lysenker 1295; Lyscart 1417.
Topography:	Liscard sits on a low plateau between a rocky ridge to the west and the estuary of the River Mersey to the east.
History:	Liscard is not mentioned in the Domesday Book. The first documentary evidence for Liscard is during the mid-thirteenth century when it is listed as being held under the barony of Halton by Richard de Aston of Aston, however, the place name hints at the settlement having an earlier origin (3). The population remained small until the nineteenth century, being just 211 in 1801 (4). This lack of growth and change is also reflected in the continued control of the manor by the Aston family until the late sixteenth century (5). It then passed to the Meoles and in the eighteenth century to the Houghs, and was then sold to John Penketh (5).

Present landmarks:	<p>St John Church (1832-33), at the south end of Central Park. This is a neo-classical church built from ashlar stone. It has a Doric portico. Inside the galleries were removed in a remodelling of 1892 (6).</p> <p>Church of St Alban, Catholic Church (1852-3) by S.R. Eyre and J.A. Hansom (6).</p> <p>Memorial Unitarian Chapel on Manor Road (1898-9). By Waring and Rathbone. Arts and Crafts style.</p> <p>Liscard Library is a stone building which has been extended by a brick and terracotta building.</p> <p>Wallasey Water Tower (1860), stone built with Norman detailing, now used by a car repair garage (6).</p> <p>8-26 Manor Road (early nineteenth century) forms a terrace of ten sandstone houses. (7)</p>
Historic landmarks:	<p>Liscard Hall (c.1830), off Liscard Road in Central Park, south of the nineteenth-century village core. This classical-style mansion set in an urban park was built by Sir John Tobin, and became disused (4); now destroyed by fire due to an arson attack in 2008. (7)</p> <p>Liscard Castle situated between the two historic cores, in the cemetery and adjacent modern housing on Seaview Road. c.1902. (7)</p> <p>Liscard (or Wallasey) Mill located south of Mount Pleasant Road, parallel to Kirkway. (7)</p> <p>The 'gospel stone' is thought to have been located at the junction of Kirkway and Rake Lane. (7)</p> <p>Mother Redcaps (c.1595) a cottage which acted as a public house under many names including The Half Way House, Seabank Nook and The White House (8). It's most famous incarnation was as Mother Redcaps (aka Poll Jones), and under her ownership it became famous as a safe house for smugglers and wreckers. (7)</p> <p>The Magazines (1751) erected to store gunpowder from ships entering the port of Liverpool, as the former magazines on Clarence Street were considered too close to be safe (8). Demolished 1851. The massive gateway to the magazine and a round magazine watchman's hut still stand on Magazine Lane. (7)</p> <p>Liscard Battery (1858) a grass-covered earthen bank near to the river, and stone structure to the land, which allowed guns to be trained on ships coming into port; never used in anger. The grand gateway remains at the end of Magazine Brow, with modern housing behind. (7)</p>
Early Activity:	<p>Evidence of early activity has been discovered between the two historic village cores on Zig Zag Road and Longland Road off Rake Lane and includes two Neolithic/Bronze Age stone hammers and a Bronze Age palstave. A further Neolithic flint arrowhead has also been discovered in the township, on the east coast and a Roman coin in Central park, Wallasey (7).</p>

Suggestions of two early churches in the township have not been supported up by archaeological evidence, and the location of Lee's Kirk, or Walley's Kirk, is not known (7).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Captain's Pit (post medieval) a marl pit located on Hose Side Road. The area is still retained as a green space with a large pond. (7)

There are some extant post-medieval buildings, including Stanley Cottages on Rake Lane (1790) and Egerton Grove Cottages (eighteenth century). (7)  
The township became dependant on day-trippers in the nineteenth century, especially after the opening of the tramway in 1879 (4). Through the nineteenth century the population increased massively, from just 211 in 1801 to 11,612 in 1881, and at this time it became a dormitory town for the city of Liverpool (4).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

New Brighton (see separate study)  
The settlements of Egremont and North Egremont are marked as well-established settlements on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map.

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 7. Surveyed 1874-75. Published 1882.  
Liscard Tithe Map 1841.  
Bryant's Map of Cheshire 1831.

References:

(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Chitty, G. 1983. *Wirral Urban Areas: Survey Report*. Merseyside Council Council / Merseyside County Museums. Liverpool.  
(4) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(5) Ormerod, G. 1889. *The History of Cheshire: Liscard*.  
(6) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.  
(8) Woods, E.C. and Brown, P.C. 1960. *The Rise and Progress of Wallasey*. Wallasey Corporation.



## Little Meols (including Hoylake and Hilbre Island)

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NW
NGR (centred):	Little Meols SJ 215 888 Hoylake SJ 215 891 Hilbre Island SJ 184 880
District:	Wirral
Township:	Little Meols
Geology:	Alluvium and wind-blown sand.
Historic Core:	Little Meols settlement named on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS (1882) and at the current junction of The King's Gap, Market Street and Meols Drive. Hoylake was established along Market Street and The Kings Gap.
Origin of Name:	Little Meols: Melas (1086). Sand dune (1) or the sandhills (2). From Old Norse (1). Prefix Little- in use by 1361, previously <i>infra</i> (2). Hoylake: Hyle Lake (1687). The name of a roadstead now silted up, off the north-west coast of Wirral, east of Hilbre, inside Hoyle Bank (2). Hylake 1709; Hoyle Lake 1796. Hilbre: Hildeburgheye (1388) Hildeberg's island (1, 2). From Old English personal name Hildeburg (female), it may have been that the monastery on the island was dedicated to St Hildeburgh. e.g. Hilburghee 1521; Hilbree 1538; Elborough 1891 (2).
Topography:	On a low-lying flat former beach in the north-west corner of the Wirral. It has a sea coast to the north and an estuarine coast to the Dee in the west.
History:	Robert of Rhuddlan was recorded as holding Melas in the Domesday Book (3). It then passed to the Grosvenor family, and then to the Meoles and to the Lancelyns, who retained it until the late sixteenth century, when it passed to the Stanley family. It remained in this family into the nineteenth century, and it was Lord Stanley of Alderly who established Hoylake as a bathing resort (3).
Present landmarks:	Holy Trinity (1833) by Sir James Picton is a red sandstone church in Norman style.

Historic landmarks:	<p>Stanley's Royal Hotel (1792) is a remnant of the establishment of a bathing resort in the township. It was demolished in the mid twentieth century (4). Two lighthouses, one wooden, one brick, were in existence in the 1760s (3).</p> <p>Race Course to the south of the settlement core, marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882. Racing began around 1840.</p> <p>On Hilbre Island: Windmill (post-medieval) and a pair of columns with pivoting arms used for semaphore to communicate messages between Holyhead and Liverpool (5).</p>
Early Activity:	<p>Neolithic stone axe with oval section found, exact location in the township was not recorded (6).</p> <p>Fragmentary remains of Bronze Age socketed axe found, but lost in bombing of Liverpool Museum (6).</p> <p>On Hilbre Island: A flint-working site at Hilbre point suggests Mesolithic use of Hilbre Island. Two tanged-and-barbed arrowheads have also been discovered (now in Grosvenor Museum) (6). Third or fourth century Romano-British pottery sherds found (6). Bead of blue glass (possibly seventh century) was found in 1895 (now in World Museum Liverpool) (6). Two pieces of Anglo-Saxon stonework found, one a red sandstone cross-head and another grave slab (6). A burial ground was in use on the island in the pre and post conquest period. A monastic house was established on Hilbre Island by Chester Abbey around 1081, and continued in use until the dissolution (7).</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>Numerous post-medieval farm buildings exist in the township, predating the establishment of the settlement. The high lake of Hoylake was a tidal pool, which was good for mooring while ships waited for the tide to enter the Dee, especially to the port of Parkgate (5). In the early 1800s fishing became the primary industry of the township (5), "During the nineteenth century, Little Meols and Hoose gradually merged to create a town which took its name from the adjoining stretch of sea. As Britain's population and the associated need for protein increased, so did the number of Hoylake fishing boats." (7).</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None
Maps:	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.</p> <p>Little Meols Tithe Map 1844.</p>

References:

- (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
- (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.
- (3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.
- (4) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: An Illustrated Review*. The Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.
- (6) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.
- (7) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Philimore. London.

## Lower Bebington

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 SW
NGR (centred):	Lower Bebington SJ 332 843 New Ferry SJ 337 853 Primrose Hill SJ 334 849 St Andrew's Church SJ 332 839
District:	Wirral
Township:	Lower Bebington
Geology:	Triassic Bunter Sandstone and pebble beds, partly overlain by boulder clay and alluvium.
Historic Core:	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, displays the post-medieval core of the settlement clearly at the junction of Bebington Road, Heath Road, Acres Road, and The Village. However, the earlier area of settlement is thought to have been further south at the cross roads of Church Road, Kirket Lane, Highcroft Avenue and The Village, sited around St Andrew's Church. There is some development on the Bromborough Road (SJ 336 839).named 'Trafalgar' on the 1st Edition 6" OS map (1882)
Origin of Name:	Bedintone (1096). Bebb's farm (1) Personal name <i>Bebba tūn</i> (1). The distinction between the two Bebingtons is first recorded in the thirteenth century (2). Lower prefix in use by 1882, previously Inferior Bebinton (c.1280 (1). higher Bebinton 1280; Bebington 1666 (1).
Topography:	Low-lying township on the coastal plain, which slopes gently down to the Mersey to the north of Bromborough Pool. The land is slightly higher in the north of the township than in the south.
History:	The townships of 'Higher' and 'Lower' Bebington were probably formed as one manor, later subdivided. The Anglo-Saxon place name suggests that the date of the town could be as early as the seventh century Mercian colonisation of the Wirral (3). Lower Bebington is thought to have been the administrative centre for the two Bebingtons. The parish also included Poulton-cum-Spital, Storeton and Tranmere (3). The 'capella' or chapel of Bebington was first referred to in 1093 when it was granted to the Abbey of St Werburgh. The parish passed to the Launcelyn family in the late twelfth century and through partible inheritance by sons and

daughters passed into five lines, those of Launcelyn, Irelans, Stanley, Mascy and Foulhurst. Later it was passed from the Stanleys to the Pooles, Rev. Hugh Poole was reverend of Bebington until 1716.

In the nineteenth century there has been a shift away from agriculture as an increasing number of Liverpool merchants and gentry classes moved into Lower Bebington (4).

Present landmarks:

St Andrew's Church (Norman). The south aisle was widened c.1300. Chapels were added to the north and south in the mid fourteenth century in the perpendicular style. (5)

The Stanley Railway or Storeton Tramway was constructed in the south of the township in 1837-8 on the line now followed by Quarry Avenue (5). The Chester and Birkenhead Railway was built in 1840 (5) and runs north-south through dissecting the township of Lower Bebington forming a boundary for the development of the settlement, it also the western boundary for the model village of Port Sunlight within the township of Lower Bebington (3). Because of this, the settlement of Lower Bebington has remained a distinct individual settlement until recent times.

Port Sunlight Village was created as workers' housing for the Lever Soap Factory; the creation of William Hesketh Lever c.1888. The Lady Lever Art Gallery (National Museums Liverpool) is also located within the village. (5)

Historic landmarks:

St Andrew's Church. The current structure (see above) may contain some Anglo-Saxon material (3; 6).

Bebington Hall, mainly eighteenth and nineteenth century façade, but possibly has an older core, the cellars are reputedly fourteenth century. Road widening during 1897 uncovered re-used fourteenth century masonry utilised as foundations for the boundary wall. (5)

There are several post-medieval buildings extant in the township: 23-25, The Village; The Grange; Acres Road; Heath Cottage; The Rose and Crown; The Wellington and Mayer Library (3; 5).

St Andrews School (1828), replaced by new school built in 1856. (5)

Early Activity:

A Roman roadway has been identified to the south of the settlement core running southwest to northeast, some Roman coins spot finds have been found in the settlement core, near St Andrew's Church, and to the north of the settlement core (6).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The post-medieval village was a compact nucleated settlement, centring around the roads known as The Village and Heath Road (3). The most notable activity during the post-medieval period was in the

development of the area to the north of Lower Bebington and the relocation of the village centre away from the church, which lies over half a kilometre south of the post-medieval village. The more modern northern site for the village is on slightly higher land. Why this shift occurred is uncertain.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

New Ferry is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1850, as a well-established settlement. It lies on the coast to the north-east of the settlement core of Lower Bebington. Primrose Hill is a small group of buildings marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1850, to the north-east of the settlement core. Trafalgar is adjacent to the settlement core to the south-east, again marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, surveyed 1850.

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.

References:

- (1) Dodgson, J. 1972. English Place-names: Wirral Hundred.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1960. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.
- (3) Chitty, G. 1983. Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report. Merseyside County Council.
- (4) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral* Whittaker and Co. Irkenhead.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.

## Moreton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	SJ 262 899
District:	Wirral
Township:	Moreton-cum-Lingham
Geology:	Triassic Bunter pebble beds overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	At the junction of Hoylake Road, Upton Road and Pasture Road.
Origin of Name:	Moreton (1278). Town by a moor or fen (1). Farm at a marsh (2). From <i>mōr tūn</i> . Mortona 1287; Murton 1321; Moorton 1377 (2).
Topography:	Moreton sits on a low-lying flat former beach around a kilometre inland from the north coast of the Wirral. It is bounded by a railway line to the north.
History:	The township of Moreton formed part of the township of Eastham at the time of the Domesday Book, and is therefore not recorded separately. The parish was held by Hamo de Mascy in the twelfth century (3). The Kingston estate map of 1665 shows the open field system and common land. The village itself was structured around two north-south parallel lanes, now Pasture Road and Barnston Lane. The chapel in the centre of the settlement is recorded in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The settlement was built on farming, in a photograph of 1924 eleven farms can be identified (4).
Present landmarks:	Christ Church (1863) is fourteenth century in style. The adjacent rectory has been demolished (5). Old Hall Farm, Barnston Lane (1719) was built by Daniel and Mary Wilson. It is a rendered brick farmhouse, and the internal features include plaster ceilings (3). It was extended in 1988.
Historic landmarks:	Moreton Chapel (sixteenth century) stood in the plot of land bordered by Hoylake Road, Digg Lane and Netherton Road. It is thought to have been demolished c.1690 (3). Records of the goods within the church in 1550 include "one chales with a ringe of one belle". The only representation of the chapel is of 1656 on the Kingston-Vyner estate map of Moreton, where it is shown as a low building with a belfry over the west

gable and a cross on the eastern gable. An excavation in the 1980s aimed to reveal the remains of the chapel but no trace was found. A sequence of three buildings was discovered enclosed by a sequence of ditches, in one of which was a 10<sup>th</sup> silver penny (AD 955-9 Eadwig) A late Saxon (early Medieval) date is possibly but to be confirmed by radiocarbon dating (6).

A windmill (post medieval) stood to the north of the settlement core, and was recorded as a fieldname on the 1838 Tithe Map.

Rifle Range, situated on corner of Leasowe Road and Pasture Road. The range was thought to have been in use since the early 1800s up until the First World War, notably by the armies of William of Orange prior to the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland (4).

Early Activity: Neolithic polished axe with faceted sides found in the vicinity of Upton Road, Moreton (7; 8). A sandstone head, possibly Iron Age, found in the vicinity of Dawson Drive. Roman coins found in settlement and around the township (8).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Evidence of farming in the township, including farm buildings: farms, a shippon. There is also cartographic evidence of a dovecote and a smithy.

In the twentieth century an area to the north of the settlement core, off Pasture Road, was used as a shanty town to cater for the housing shortage after the First World War. These buildings were progressively cleared by the council as new housing was provided (9).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Moreton Tithe Map 1838.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Smith, N. 1990. *Almost an Island*. Wallasey.  
(4) Biddle, F. & Fellowes, A. *Moreton Wirral, A pictorial History, Vol. 3*.  
(5) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(6) Philpott, R. (2008) *Medieval Settlement in Merseyside*. Paper from a November 2001 conference published in *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society* Volume 12 2008.



- (7) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.
- (8) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.
- (9) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: An Illustrated Review*. The Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.

## New Brighton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	No
OS map Sheet:	SJ 39 SW
NGR (centred):	New Brighton SJ 307 939 (west extent) SJ 299 938 (east extent) SJ 312 940 Upper Brighton SJ 309 932
District:	Wirral
Township:	Liscard
Geology:	The solid geology of Keuper Sandstone, Bunter Pebble Beds are overlain by Boulder Clay in much of the township of Liscard, but not in the settlement of New Brighton.
Historic Core:	The core of this settlement was established along Victoria Road. Named settlement of Upper Brighton on OS 6" map (1882) at current Rake Lane , south of Mount Pleasant Road/ Magazine Lane
Origin of Name:	The settlement took the current name during the Victorian period; named after the southern seaside town of Brighton (1).
Topography:	New Brighton is confined by the sea and open Mersey estuary on two sides, and sits on a rocky outcrop. The waterfront areas are flat plains of reclaimed land.
History:	Prior to the 1830s the area was sparsely populated with only a handful of fishermen's cottages along the coast. New Brighton was conceived by James Atherton, a Liverpool Merchant, who purchased a large area of sandy heathland in the north-east of Liscard in 1830 (2). The erection of villa housing took place between the 1830s and 40s; the original plan was to build villa housing well-spaced so that they did not interrupt the view of another (2). Much rhetoric was used to promote the area, "The sea bathing rendezvous par excellence of Lancashire people of note" (3); "a most agreeable and desirable place of resort to ( <i>sic</i> ) the Nobility and Gentry of all the neighbouring counties" (4). The new resort town did become popular, but with the Lancashire working classes (3).
Present landmarks:	All Saints (1927-39) by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott is brick built with a flat timber ceiling (6). St James (1854-6) by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott has a tall thin spire and a polygonal apse.

Perch Rock lighthouse (1827-30) replaced a wooden lantern structure that marked the entrance to the Rock Channel. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1973. Currently used as a museum.

Fort Perch Rock (1826-9) was built to defend the port of Liverpool after the Napoleonic Wars (6).

Gorse Hill Water Tower (1902-5) is stone with Norman detailing, and castellation (6).

Historic landmarks:

New Brighton Tower (1897-1900) was 121 feet higher than Blackpool Tower and the tallest structure in the country at the time. Due to poor maintenance during the First World War, the tower was deemed unsafe and dismantled between 1919 and 1921. The tower ballrooms at the base of the tower were retained and remained in use until 1969. (7)

New Brighton Pier (1864) replaced an earlier wooden pier. It was dismantled in 1978. (7)

Early Activity:

A Prehistoric occupation site, consisting of circular huts, has been located below the high water mark along the New Brighton shore. (7)

Mesolithic blades, flakes and waste flint found at Red Noses, now at National Museums Liverpool indicate a flint working site (5; 7).

Other spot finds in the township include a Neolithic/Bronze Age perforated stone hammer, found during drain cutting c.1900. (7) The exact location is uncertain; it was thought to have been located somewhere along the coast between New Brighton and Egremont. Two Romano-British coins have also been discovered in New Brighton, one along the coast near the Magazines, the other in the Tower grounds in New Brighton.(7)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Beacon established in 1683, replaced in the nineteenth century by the Perch Lighthouse. (7)

Yellow Noses caves have incised dates "1619" being the earliest. (7)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 7. Surveyed 1874-5. Published 1882.

References:

(1) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: An Illustrated Review*. The Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.

(2) Chitty, G. 1983. *Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report*. Merseyside County Council.

(3) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.

- (4) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: An Illustrated Review*. The Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.
- (5) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.
- (6) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Newton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 233 877 Larton SJ 236 871
District:	Wirral
Township:	Newton-cum-Larton
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone almost completely overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The settlement of Newton was established along Saughall Massie Road at junction with Carr Lane and China Farm Lane, around the present Newton Hall Farm.
Origin of Name:	Neuton (1278). New farm (1). From <i>nīwe tūn</i> . Neweton 1291; Nuton 1695 (1).
Topography:	It is on low-lying flat land, intercut by drainage channels and natural streams.
History:	The township does not appear in the Domesday Book, but it is known that it was held by the Banastre family in the medieval period, and from them it passed to the Venables. There is then a gap in the records before the mid seventeenth century, when the township became the property of Thomas Bennett. The township was divided in the nineteenth century, and there were numerous people in possession of parts of it (2). In 1899 the township was combined with Grange (3).
Present landmarks:	County Secondary School for girls (4).
Historic landmarks:	None.
Early Activity:	Medieval ridge and furrow is present in several of the fields in the township. (5)
Significant Post-Med Activity:	The township is primarily agricultural, although the Second World War RAF station converted this land to military use in 1939, and the station was utilised throughout the war and until 1957. It was dismantled in 1962. (5)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Larton is recorded as a place-name in 1291 (1), and to the south of the settlement core Larton Hey Farm still stands.

Maps:

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882.  
Newton Tithe Map 1847.

References:

- (1) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.
- (2) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (3) Brownbill, J. 1928. *West Kirby and Hilbre: A Parochial History*. Henry Young and Sons Ltd. Liverpool.
- (4) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Noctorum

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 290 878
District:	Wirral
Township:	Noctorum
Geology:	Triassic Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Red Sandstone overlain by Boulder Clay in the west of the township.
Historic Core:	The core of Noctorum is around Buerton Close and Noctorum Dell. There was a secondary phase of settlement to the north, in the areas marked as a quarry on the 1846 Tithe map, and named as Chenotrie on the 1st Edition 6" OS map, published 1882. This is centred around Chenotrie Gardens.
Origin of Name:	Chenoterie (1086). Hill-town. From Old Irish noc or cnocc meaning a hill (1) or dry hill (2). Cenocitrum 1119; Knoutyrom 1286; Knettyrom 1377; Knocktor 1546 (2). The 1st Edition 6" OS map, published 1882 shows both Chenotrie and Noctorum.
Topography:	This small township occupies land which slopes up from the River Fender towards the Sandstone ridge at the south end of Bidston Hill.
History:	The settlement may have grown out of a seasonal sheiling-type settlement (3). When it was recorded in the Domesday Book, Chenoterie was held by William Malbank. The settlement grew very little until the twentieth century. In 1663 the hearth tax records list just two taxable dwellings, with three hearths in each. In 1819 Ormerod described Noctorum, "the villages consist merely of two or three farmhouses, situated on an elevation opposite Woodchurch, in a very dreary part of Wirral" (4).
Present landmarks:	House on Wethersfield Road (early seventeenth-century) is a vernacular sandstone house (3). Mere Hall, Noctorum Lane (c1880) by Edmund Kirkby (5). Ha'Pennyfield, Noctorum Lane (1959-1960) by J. Quentin Hughes (5).
Historic landmarks:	None.
Early Activity:	Neolithic polished stone axe found at Noctorum Dell (3).

Significant Post-Med Activity: In 1844 the whole township was sold to William Vaudrey, and was gradually divided up into plots for large houses (3).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None

Maps: 1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Noctorum Tithe Map 1846.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Chitty, G. 1983. *Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report*. Merseyside County Council.  
(4) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.  
(5) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.



## Oxton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 301 877
District:	Wirral
Township:	Oxton
Geology:	The township is underlain by Keuper Sandstone, which surfaces in the settlement, but is overlain in boulder clay in the rest of the township.
Historic Core:	The settlement grew up around the crossroads of Bidston Road - Talbot Road and Townfield Road - Gerald Road. The focus was especially to the north along Bidston Road.
Origin of Name:	Oxeton (1278). Farm or enclosure where oxen are kept (1). Thought to mean farm or hamlet where cattle are kept (2). From <i>Oxa tūn</i> . Oxtone 1278; Oxon 1549.
Topography:	Oxton occupies the centre of a Sandstone ridge running north-south down the east side of Wirral. A large proportion of the north and west of the township is exposed highland which remained uncultivated heath until the mid-nineteenth century. To the south east of the settlement core is Arno Hill, of around 70m height, marked as commonland on the Shrewsbury Estate Map of 1795.
History:	Oxton may originally have been formed in the pre-Conquest period as a seasonal settlement for summer pasture (3). Oxton is not named in the Domesday Book, but is thought to be recorded as part of Eastham (4). There is fieldname evidence of the use of the land within the township in the Anglo-Scandinavian period, with 13 of the 48 recorded fieldnames including Norse elements (5). In 1819 Ormerod described the settlement as, "mean and small, composed of wretched, straggling huts" in "an unmixed scene of poverty and desolation" (3).
Present landmarks:	Oxton Hall (seventeenth-century) is a small stone house, possibly a dower house associated with the old Manor House. Chetwynd (mid-Victorian) is a large stone house and stables. It is in Victorian Tudor and Gothic style (3). St Saviour's Church (1889-92) was built to replace a church of 1846, which had become inadequate after the

growth of Oxton as a Victorian suburb. The exterior is red sandstone, with a brick interior, dressed with sandstone. Post-war restoration blocked the east window (6).

- Historic landmarks: Manor House and Hall are both described as being destroyed by the late nineteenth century, "as the old buildings decay, they are replaced by others of a more respectable appearance. The Hall and Manor House are entirely destroyed" (4).  
Alehouse belonging to Joseph Harvey, recorded on the Tithe Map of 1847. (7)  
The windmill (medieval) is recorded in the fourteenth century. (7)
- Early Activity: A Neolithic polished stone axe and a Neolithic / Bronze Age stone hammer have been found to the south of the settlement core (3; 5). And in 1834 a hoard of Roman coins (possibly third century) was found during quarrying on Arno Hill (3; 4).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: There has been massive expansion of the settlement in the Victorian period, with the construction of detached and semi-detached houses built of local stone (7). This was done under the control of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who leased a number of plots from the 1840s onwards.
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None
- Maps: 1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Oxton Tithe Map 1847.  
Shrewsbury Estate Map 1795.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Chitty, G. 1983. *Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report*. Merseyside County Council.  
(4) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.  
(5) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.  
(6) Pevsner, N and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.  
(7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Pensby

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	No settlement concentration sourced General location SJ 266 835
District:	Wirral
Township:	Pensby
Geology:	Triassic Keuper Sandstone overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	There are two farmhouses with the name 'Pensby', one of which lies in the township of Pensby, this is marked as 'Higher Pensby' on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882. It centres around the historic Pensby Hall. No nucleation occurred around this site, and there is no settlement core as such.
Origin of Name:	Penisby (c.1229). The village on Penn Hill (1; 2). From Primitive Welsh <i>Penn</i> and Old Norse <i>býr</i> . Alternative village on the hill, 'pen' meaning 'hill' (2). Penlisby 1307; Pemmesby 1523.
Topography:	Fairly flat site, sloping up slightly to the south west to the site of Pensby Hall.
History:	Pensby is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, the township is first recorded as being in control of the Dounvilles, and their descendants, the Pennesbies, inherited it from them in the early fourteenth century. It was divided amongst members of this family (3).
Present landmarks:	Pensby Hall (1668) is a two storey red sandstone house, with slate roof. It has stone mullioned windows. There have been later alterations and additions. (4)
Historic landmarks:	None.
Early Activity:	No evidence recorded.
Significant Post-Med Activity:	There was no nucleation in this area in the post medieval period, but in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries it has become part of the suburban area to the west of Birkenhead.
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872-74. Published 1882.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Pensby*.  
(4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## **Poulton (cum Seacombe)**

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban
OS map Sheet:	SJ 39 SW
NGR (centred):	Poulton SJ 302 910 Seacombe SJ 323 905
District:	Wirral
Township:	Poulton-cum-Seacombe
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone in the west, Keuper Sandstone in the centre, Bunter pebble beds in the east are all overlain by Boulder Clay. Alluvial deposits on the riverfront in the east.
Historic Core:	Poulton is along the Wallasey Pool, between Limekiln Lane and Poulton Road. Seacombe is located on the coast along the north end of Birkenhead Road. By 1882 - at Wheatland lane and current Birkenhead Road and around Brougham Road (SJ 323 912 and the current Borough road East (SJ 324 907)
Origin of Name:	Poulton: Town (1) or Farm (2) by a pool. From <i>pōl tūn</i> . Seacombe: Valley by the sea (1).
Topography:	Poulton runs along the north-east side of the West Float Dock, which itself follows the line of the natural pool between the areas of Birkenhead and Wallasey. The land slopes down to the dock, more steeply at the north-west end and gently at the south-east end. The settlement of Poulton was established at the least hazardous point across the Wallasey Pool and as such was probably a centre of some importance.
History:	The two hamlets of Poulton and Seacombe developed separately, although the two names seem to have been linked as early as the fourteenth century (1). The township is not recorded in the Domesday Book (3), and it is likely that the settlements were listed under Liscard. In the records until the fourteenth century the two settlements were recorded separately, as Pulton in Waley and Secum in Waley, and each fared its own townfields (4). It is probable that the two settlements were linked in order to distinguish Poulton from another settlement of the same name located further south in Wirral (Poulton-cum-Spital). A series of different families controlled parts of the township in the medieval and post-medieval periods (5), the separations perhaps reflecting the division between Poulton and Seacombe.

These different owners of the manorial rights included important local families such as the Houghs of Thornton Hough, the Bechentons and the Lytherlonds (5).

- Present landmarks: The Old House / Birds House (1627) is a vernacular stone-built house (4).  
Wallasey Town Hall (1914-20) in the east of the township on the banks of the River Mersey. (6)  
Hydraulic Power station (1868) by J.B.Hartley (son of Jessie) of brick with stone dressings. (6)
- Historic landmarks: Poulton Hall (1626) stood to the north of Poulton Road (4).  
Poulton Manor House (medieval) stood to the south east of the settlement core. (6)  
Poulton Mill (post-medieval, pre-1663) stood adjacent to the present Mill Lane, and was demolished in the early nineteenth century (6).  
Shipyards (1882) on the riverfront to the south of the settlement core and north of the Alfred Dock closed after owner was bankrupted in 1887, and used as a factory until its destruction during the Second World War (6).  
Smeltworks (post medieval, pre 1741) which stood on the Dock Road / Birkenhead Road were demolished in 1860 in the process of completion of the Great Float (7).  
Wheatland Dower House (1694) (7).
- Early Activity: There are only two archaeological find-spot recorded in this township: a Romano-British coin discovered at Central Park, Wallasey, and a post-medieval guinea found in 1850, which inspired the naming of the street Guinea Gap, off current Brogham Road, Seacombe (6).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: This area has developed in the nineteenth and twentieth century.
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None
- Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 7. Surveyed 1874-75. Published 1882.  
Poulton cum Seacombe Tithe Map 1847.  
Map of the Commons and Lands in the Township of Poulton cum Seacombe 1814 Act 1823 & 55 Award.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.

- (3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.
- (4) Chitty, G. 1983. *Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report*. Merseyside County Council.
- (5) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Poulton in Wallasey*.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (7) Woods, E.C. and Brown, P.C. 1960. *The Rise and Progress of Wallasey*. Wallasey Corporation.

## Prenton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban/Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 301 858
District:	Wirral
Township:	Prenton
Geology:	Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds, which are exposed in the settlement, and overlain by Boulder Clay in the rest of the township. There are occasional sandstone outcrops.
Historic Core:	The historic core of Prenton is located in the south of the present suburban area, between the current Prenton Hall Road, Prenton Village Road, Roman Road, Prenton Dell Road and Prenton Farm Road.
Origin of Name:	Prestune (1086). Praen's town (1) or Pren's farm (2). From rare Old English personal name Praen and tūn (3). Alternatively priest's farm (3). Prenton 1260; Premp-ton 1620; Printon 1642 (2).
Topography:	Prenton lies on gently sloping land to the west of a Sandstone ridge. There is an elevated area in the south east of the township, where Sandstone is exposed. From here the land slopes down across the township to Prenton Brook in the west.
History:	Prenton appears as a small farming hamlet on the 1st Edition 6" OS map, published 1882. However, maps from 1728 and 1756 indicated that the settlement was once a significantly larger nucleated hamlet. What caused the reduction in housing after this point is unknown. Later suburban development occurred during the early twentieth century; Pevsner describes these as "some of the best examples on Merseyside of early twentieth century domestic architecture" (4).
Present landmarks:	Prenton Hall (seventeenth century) stands on the site of the medieval Manor House (4). St Stephen's Church (1897). Before the construction of this church the community of Prenton had been served by Woodchurch Parish Church (4).
Historic landmarks:	Prenton Mill (post medieval) is thought to have stood in the west of the township, where there remains a dyke crossing the dell through which Prenton Brook flows.



Early Activity:	<p>Higher Farm (post medieval) is recorded on the estate maps of 1728, 1756 and Tithe map of 1845.</p> <p>Evidence for early activity has been located along Roman Road, including the discovery of a late Bronze Age socketed axe (3). Although there is not known evidence for its name, Roman Road itself is thought to be of medieval, or earlier origin. A Bronze Roman coin has been found in the settlement core (3).</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>Activity seems to have dwindled during the post-medieval period, with documentary sources indicating a reduction in the population by almost half after the sixteenth century. Considerable building in the early twentieth century in the north of the township has created a large suburban area north of the historic settlement core.</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None
Maps:	<p>1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.</p> <p>Prenton Tithe Map 1845.</p> <p>Map of the Lordship of Prenton being part of inheritance of George Hockenhall by Thomas Waltham, 1756.</p> <p>Map and Survey of Prenton taken from the original by William Waltham ,1728.</p>
References:	<p>(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names</i>. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.</p> <p>(2) Dodgson, J. 1973. <i>English Place-names: Wirral Hundred</i>.</p> <p>(3) Chitty, G. 1983. <i>Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report</i>. Merseyside County Council.</p> <p>(4) Pevsner, N and Hubbard, E. 1971. <i>The Buildings of England: Cheshire</i>. Penguin. Harmondsworth.</p>

## Raby

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 37 NW
NGR (centred):	Raby SJ 311 799 Raby Mere SJ 330 881
District:	Wirral
Township:	Raby
Geology:	Triassic Bunter Pebble Beds. In the north east of the township this is overlain by boulder clay and Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The settlement grew up around the junction of 'The Green' and 'Raby Mere Road'.
Origin of Name:	Rabie (1086). Norse in origin, village situated near a boundary mark, or a village with a boundary mark of a certain kind (1). From <i>rá býr</i> (2). There has also been a suggestion that it would have marked the boundary between Saxon and Norman territory (3). Rabbi 1150; Robi 1208; Reaby 1663 (2).
Topography:	Raby sits in the centre of Wirral on a very gentle slope up towards Neston to the South West. The height difference across the 40 metres of the village is only around 7 metres.
History:	The manor of 'Rabie' is recoded in the Domesday Book, at this time the manor was divided between William 'FitzNigel' or 'Fitzniel' Baron of Halton and the Monks of St Werburgh in Chester (4). The settlement is thought to be medieval in origin, although the surviving structures within the village core are mainly post-medieval. Ormerod 1819, describes Raby, "the early connection of this township with the sergeancy of the Bridge Gate of Chester gives a degree of interest to as dreary and unpromising a district as any which this country can furnish, and which, since the extinction of its lords since the fourteenth century has been altogether abandoned to the residence of farmers" (5). The area is still primarily rural.
Present landmarks:	Old Wheatsheaf Inn (c.1611) is located on 'The Green' in the centre of the settlement (6). The building may have medieval origins, but the present fabric is post medieval and later. The Old Schoolhouse (late nineteenth-century) was built at the expense of Joseph Hirst of Wilshaw, and

	<p>was probably designed by Kirk and Sons; it has now been converted for residential use (7).</p> <p>Raby Hall (1845) stands near Raby Mere. (8)</p> <p>Grange Farm (post-medieval) located off Mere Road. The name suggests that the current post-medieval complex could have been located on the site of the earlier medieval monastic grange (8).</p>
Historic landmarks:	Raby Mill (medieval) worked until 1850, and was demolished in 1890. It was possibly originally associated with a monastic grange sited near Raby Mere (8).
Early Activity:	There have been discoveries of prehistoric activity within the township including a Neolithic flint artefact north-east of the settlement, and a Bronze Age barrow discovered to the south-east of the settlement, off Bentley Heath Lane (8). A Romano-British Road, Hargreave Lane in the east of the township runs north-west – south-east roughly parallel with a section of the M53 motorway (8). There have also been Romano-British spot finds of coins in Raby Mere (8).
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>The village core is largely populated by post-medieval buildings, including the farmhouses Pear Tree Farm, White House Farm and Corner House Farm, and Jasmine Cottage. (8)</p> <p>There has been minimal nineteenth and twentieth-century activity in the township, although a Royal Observer Corps listening post and a Second World War gun emplacement stood to the east of the settlement core (8).</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	Raby Mere is a secondary settlement to the east of the settlement core. The mill pond remains, and the site of the mill is known. It is not known whether this acted as a mill for the village (some 2km away), was a mill for the monastic grange, separate from the settlement. (8)
Maps:	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872-74. Published 1882.
References:	<p>(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names</i>. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.</p> <p>(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. <i>English Place-names: Wirral Hundred</i>.</p> <p>(3) <i>Wirral Conservation Areas</i>. March 1998</p> <p>(4) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. <i>The Hundred of Wirral</i>. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.</p> <p>(5) Chitty, G. <i>Wirral Rural Fringes Survey Report</i>.</p>

- (6) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: An Illustrated Review*. Bluecoat Press. Liverpool
- (7) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (8) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## **Saughall Massie**

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 253 886
District:	Wirral
Township:	Saughall Massie
Geology:	Keuper Red Marl Sandstone, overlain in the whole township by Boulder Clay. Along the valley of Arrowe Brook alluvial deposits are present.
Historic Core:	The historic core lies on the cross roads of Saughall Road, West Kirby Road, Saughall Massie Road and Barnacre Lane.
Origin of Name:	Saughall: Hall were willows grew (1). Willow Nook (2). From salh halh. Saligh 1249; Salghale 1309; Salgham 1385; Saughoughe 1546 (2). Massie: manor held by Hamo de Mascy (2).
Topography:	Saughall Massie lies on flat low-lying land, around 2.5 km inland from the north coast of the Wirral.
History:	Saughall Massie is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but was in the possession of the Masseys. It continued in this family, and by the nineteenth century had passed to the Vyner family (3).
Present landmarks:	Prospect Farm, a post-medieval sandstone and brick farm, was restored in 1991. (4) Ivy Cottage, a post-medieval cruck cottage, was restored in 1995 (4).
Historic landmarks:	A wooden peg windmill (sixteenth century) stood about a mile north of the settlement, and was demolished c. 1875 (4).
Early Activity:	Medieval ridge and furrow remains to the west of the settlement core. Areas of long-narrow field strips were recorded in the north west of the settlement on the 1842 Tithe map, some of these are still extant in the present field divisions (4).
Significant Post-Med Activity:	The township was primarily a farming community, and numerous farms and cottages remain (4).
Other potential settlements identified within township	

which may need further investigation:

None

Maps:

1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Saughall Massie Tithe Map 1842.

References:

(1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## **Poulton (cum Spital)**

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	Poulton SJ 333 819 Spital SJ 335 831
District:	Wirral
Township:	Poulton-cum-Spital
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone, a majority of which is overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	The settlement pattern is very scattered around the township, but a concentration of buildings is at 'Poulton' just north of Poulton Hall. Spital centres around the former old and new hall sites off current Brimstage Road.
Origin of Name:	Pulton cun le Spitell (1385) Hospital at town (1) or Farm (2) by a pool. From spitel pōl tūn (1).
Topography:	The land slopes gently down from the west towards the east. The township is now cut by the railway line in the east and the M53 motorway in the west. Poulton Hall in the south of the township is set on an outcrop.
History	At the conquest the manor was granted to Osborne Fitz Tezzon. Under that family Poulton was held by the Lancelyns (before 1093). The Lancelyns remained in the manor until around 1550, when the male line ran out, and the manor passed, by marriage into the Greene family of Norton, Northampton (3).
Present landmarks:	Poulton Hall (1653) an L-shaped rendered stone house, much altered, but retaining early features like a seventeenth-century staircase. Clatterbridge Hospital (1836, expanded 1883-5), established as workhouse by the Wirral Union. The original building still stands as part of the hospital complex, dated 1837. (4)
Historic landmarks:	Chapel (medieval) "As indicated by its name, the hamlet of Spital anciently contained a chapel, or hospital, dedicated to St Thomas the Martyr (a Beket), founded shortly after his death in 1170" (3). Spital Old Hall (1689) stood on the site of the earlier hospital, to the north-west of the nineteenth century Spital Hall.

A 'castle' (reputedly medieval) on the site of Poulton Hall (3). This, however, as named 'Castle' on the 1882 OS map, has not been substantiated.

Early Activity: Spot finds in the township include flint scrapers, a Bronze Age axe-head and Romano-British pottery. These have been found in different areas around the township. (4)

Significant Post-Med Activity: There are several post-medieval cottages and barns remaining in the township (4), although there has been considerable twentieth-century housing development in the north of the township in the area around the settlements of Spital and Poulton. In the nineteenth century Spital, "developed as a district of large Victorian villas, of which hardly a trace now remains" (5).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Poulton, Poulton Hall and Poulton Hey are all marked on the 1st Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, to the south of Spital.

Maps: 1st Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.  
Wilson Estate map. 1854.  
Poulton cum Spital Tithe map 1847.  
Richard Green Estate Map 1793.  
Edward Green Estate Map 1729.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.  
(5) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E, 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.



## Storeton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	Storeton SJ 305 842 Little Storeton SJ 303 846
District:	Wirral
Township:	Storeton
Geology:	Pebble Beds in the west and Keuper Sandstone in the east. The fault which divides the two types runs north-south to the east of the settlement core. Much of the township is overlain by Boulder Clay, although the Pebble Beds are revealed in the township.
Historic Core:	The historic core was established on the cross roads of Resthill Road, Redhill Road, and Keepers Lane and north up along Lever Causeway towards Little Storeton.
Origin of Name	Stortone (1086) Big or large settlement (1; 2). From Old Norse, <i>storr</i> . Stort 1175; Sturton 1341; Stoarton 1727 (2).
Topography:	The land rises in the east of the township to Storeton Hill. The rest of the township is relatively flat, and is now cut by the M53 motorway, which runs north-west – south-east to the west of the settlement core.
History	Storeton is recorded in the Domesday Book as the part of the estate of Nigel de Burceio (3). The settlement was subsequently passed onto and divided between various heirs, until it was reconsolidated by the purchase of the remaining divided titles by the Stanley Family (3). Ormerod described Storeton as, “the little villages of Great and Little Storeton are both comprehended within this township, which is situated immediately south west of Lower Bebington. Both are composed of straggling huts, scattered along the edge of a bleak and barren moor” (4). The manor remained in the possession of the Stanley family up until 1848 when it was sold to Sir Thomas Brocklebank of Liverpool (5).
Present landmarks:	Storeton Hall (c.1360) has been a prominent feature since the medieval period. It was built for William Stanley. It is now a farm and is located toward the north of the historic core. It is a stone-built range of medieval buildings, with an H-plan, following the typical tripartite arrangement (6).

Lever causeway (1912-1914) is one of several planned avenues designed by Viscount Leverhulme. It links Storeton with Little Storeton. (7)

Historic landmarks: Storeton Boy's School (1865) located along Landican Lane. (7)  
Windmill (not dated) is thought have stood at the south end of Storeton Hill. (7)  
Storeton Tramway (1837) was in use until 1907. It was used to transport stone from the quarries which operated on Storeton Hill until the 1920s. Woodside cottage is thought to be a crossing-keeper's cottage. (7)

Early Activity: Prehistoric spot-finds of flint artefacts have been made in the settlement core and in the township in the area at the south end of Storeton Hill (7). There is a possible Roman Road (linking Prenton to Little Storeton) running approximately north-south to the north of the settlement core and one Romano-British coin has been located on the line of the road (7).  
Quarries in Storeton provided good quality stone used in Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval sculpture and buildings (8).  
Smiths Cottage (medieval) is a cruck framed building, using a base or lower cruck. It was recorded in 1981.  
Bethlem and Murthan (medieval) is a sandstone house with timber cruck truss. It has had seventeenth century alterations. It was previously known as Doubloons, and is thought to have been used as the village bakery. (7)

Significant Post-Med Activity: There are a significant number of post-medieval structures within the settlement, particularly along Keepers Lane and the southern end of Lever Causeway. (7)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Little Storeton is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, to the north of the settlement core. This small settlement includes a smithy, a grange and a well at the time, and may be related to a former monastic complex. (7)

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Storeton Tithe Map 1840.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.

- (3) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (4) Ormerod, G. 1882. *Wirral Hundred: Storeton*.
- (5) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.
- (6) Cox, E. 1898. *The Antiquities of Storeton in Wirral*. Transactions of the Historical Society for Lancashire and Cheshire. Vol. 49. NS 13.
- (7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (8) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.

## Thingwall

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SE
NGR (centred):	Thingwall SJ 280 846 Thingwall Hall/Windmill SJ 274 849
District:	Wirral
Township:	Thingwall
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone (underlying Keuper Sandstone surfaces at Thingwall Hall). This is overlain in the north and east of the township by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core of Thingwall was established along Lower Thingwall Lane, however the 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, indicates that there was also some settlement established further north, around Thingwall Hall and Windmill on Mill Road.
Origin of Name:	Tinguelle (1086). Assembly field (1; 2). From Old Norse <i>ping vollr</i> (1; 2). Fingwalle 1180; Thingale c.1250; Thynghwall 1426 (2).
Topography:	Very gently sloping area, from higher land (around 70m) in the west, sloping down to Prenton Brook in the east.
History:	The Domesday Book records Tuigvelle as being held by the Baron of Nantwich. It passed into the ownership of the Domvilles of Brimstage and from them through the Hulses and Troutbecks to the Earl of Shrewsbury, who held it into the nineteenth century (3).
Present landmarks:	Thingwall Primary stands in the settlement core. (4) Disused quarry; remains of it are extant (4). Reservoir to the south of the settlement core. (4) Murrayfields Hospital stands in the east of the township (4).
Historic landmarks:	Thingwall Mill (eighteenth century) was sited adjacent to the present Mill Road. Following a re-build in brick in 1866 it was damaged in a storm in 1897, and not reused before it was demolished in 1900 (4). Thingwall Hall (1849) was built for Liverpool merchant Captain Lilley. It passed through several owners before being given to the Royal Liverpool Childrens' Hospital, by whom it was used for convalescence. It was demolished in 1960 and council houses built on the site (4).

- Early Activity: The earliest evidence of human activity in the township are spot finds of flint scraper and blades and a Romano-British coin (4). These finds have been located in two areas: adjacent to the historic core and in the north west of the township (4).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: Several eighteenth and nineteenth century cottages remain which retain some of the character of the post-medieval village (4).
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: A small settlement around Thingwall Mill / Thingwall Hall is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map; this area forms the centre of the present settlement.
- Maps: Thingwall Enclosure Award 1868.  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Thingwall Tithe Map 1849.  
Kingston Estate Survey 1665.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(3) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.  
(4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Thornton Hough

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 SW
NGR (centred):	SJ 305 809
District:	Wirral
Township:	Thornton Hough
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone in the west, pebble beds in the east, including under the settlement core. All the Sandstone and much of the pebble beds are overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core of the settlement is at the junction of Neston Road, Thornton Common Road, Manor Road and Raby Road. The current settlement and Conservation Area also centre on this, but reflect the late-nineteenth century rebuilding, and are slightly more extensive.
Origin of Name:	Torintone (1086). Thorn-tree farm (1). Homestead where the bushes grew by the ridge (2). Thornton 1260; Thorneton Grange 1415 (1).
Topography:	The township is relatively flat. The settlement core sits on a gentle slope with the churches at the high points, and the more modern housing to the south west on lower land. The very east of the township is cut by the M53 motorway.
History:	At Domesday Robert of Rhuddlan is recorded as holding Torintone. The manor passed to the Leighton family and through marriage to the Hough family, from whom it takes the second part of its name. It passed to the Savage and Mostyn families before being sold in 1850 to a series of "proprietors" including Stephen Williamson MP. In the late nineteenth century, through the funding of Joseph Hirst a church, a vicarage and schools were built (3). In 1891 William Lever bought the manor, and other buildings followed, including a village club, a smithy, and a series of houses, rebuilt, replacing the earlier structures in the village (4).
Present landmarks:	All Saints Church (1867) is a red sandstone structure, with lighter sandstone dressings. The interior is plain. Built with the finance of Joseph Hirst (5). Thornton Manor (early Victorian) was bought by Viscount Leverhulme in 1891, and was altered to create the Neo-Elizabethan mansion seen today (5).

The Avenues (1912-1914) were laid out for the first Viscount Leverhulme. Include Grange Drive, which runs north east out of the settlement. Lever causeway, built 1912-1914, as one of several planned avenues in the area was designed by Viscount Leverhulme.

Historic landmarks: Windmill (undated) in the west of the township is suggested by fieldnames (6).  
New Hall is a manor house, built by the Leightons, in the west of the township is recorded in 1847 as having been taken down (7).  
Fish ponds (undated) had been located in the manor wood (6).  
A moated site (medieval) has been identified, known as "moat meadow" on historic map (6).

Early Activity: The main evidence for early activity within this township is the evidence found in the excavation and watching brief carried out as part of the Thornton Hough to Bromborough pipeline development. This work has yielded a flint find, some Roman pottery and medieval pottery, although not in quantities as to be greatly archaeologically significant (8).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The rebuilding of the village in the late nineteenth century has had a massive impact on the character of the village which was formerly made up of small cottages (6), and is now filled with 'arts and crafts' style red sandstone and timbered buildings, which, as a unit, form a late nineteenth-century historic centre.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 22. Surveyed 1872. Published 1882.  
Thornton Hough Tithe Map 1847.  
Thornton Hough Enclosure Award Map 1811.  
Thornton Grange Estate Map 1788.  
Thornton Hough part of Estate map of Sit Thomas Mostyn 1732

References (1) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place-names: Wirral Hundred*.  
(2) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(3) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.  
(4) Boumphrey, I. and Boumphrey, M. 1995. *Yesterday's Wirral*. Broumphrey. Prenton.

- (5) Pevsner, N and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (7) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (8) McPhilips, S. 2005. *Thornton Hough to Bromborough Merseyside: Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief*. Oxford Archaeology North. Lancaster.



## Thurstaston

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 SW
NGR (centred):	SJ 246 840
District:	Wirral
Township:	Thurstaston
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone, with some Keuper Waterstones in the north and east of the township. This is overlain by Boulder Clay in the west of the township.
Historic Core:	The Settlement of Thurstaston was established along Church Lane and Station Road.
Origin of Name:	Turstanetone (1086). Thorstein's town (1). From Old Norse personal name <i>Thurstan</i> and <i>tūn</i> . Thorstanistona 1216; Thirstynton 1539 (1).
Topography:	The land slopes gently down from the east to the Dee estuary in the west. In the east there are two high points of 85m, one of which is Thurstaston Hill, to the north of the settlement core, which has a steeper slope; this area is now used as common land, much of which is owned by the National Trust.
History:	Robert of Rhuddlan is recorded as holding Turstanetone in the Domesday Book (2). The manor passed to the Whitmore family who are thought to have built the hall (3). The settlement has long been centred around the hall and the church. In 1819 Ormerod, described Thurstaston, " [the township] occupies high ground, overhanging a slip of meadows, which runs along the edge of the Dee. Immediately north of the township this tract of valley bends inwards, and sweeps, in a bold semicircle, between rocky elevations, to the flat district in the centre of the end of the peninsula, which adjoins the shore of the Irish Sea. The village of Thurstaston seated at the western termination of the valley immediately above the estuary, forms a wild and pleasing accompaniment to the brown moors and abrupt precipices with which it is environed" (2).
Present landmarks:	St Bartholomew's Church (1885) is a red sandstone building in late thirteenth-century style. This is the third church on this site, the first of which is thought to date from 1120. In the churchyard is the tower of the second church, which dates to 1824 (4).

Historic landmarks:	<p>Thurstaston Hall (fifteenth century with many later additions and alterations) is a large sandstone house (4).</p> <p>Dawpool (1882-4) by Norman Shaw, was built for Thomas Henry Ismay, of the White Star Line, demolished in 1927 (4).</p> <p>Rectory (1826) once stood to the south side of the church, now replaced with three cottages; a new rectory was built to the east of the church (5).</p> <p>Railway Line, now converted into 'Wirral Way' recreational foot and cycle path (5).</p>
Early Activity:	<p>There have been numerous spot finds which suggest early activity in the area. Some have been concentrated on the foreshore, including Mesolithic blades, flakes and waste found near coastline, now at National Museums Liverpool (3). A large number of prehistoric flints have been found on Thurstaston Hill and the common land, and archaeological field-walking has revealed numerous finds in Rectory Field, to the east of telegraph road, adjacent to the settlement. These have included prehistoric flints, Roman coins and brooches, an early medieval brooch and late medieval pottery (5).</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>There are several post-medieval farms in the Thurstaston area (5). Also in the township there is evidence of tile and brick-making in the area around Thurstaston Common. A possible jetty in the Dawpool area is the suggested site for a small quay. (5)</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	<p>None</p>
Maps:	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882.</p> <p>Thurstaston Tithe Map 1849.</p> <p>Thurstaston Estate Map 1817.</p>
References:	<p>(1) Dodgson, J. 1972. <i>English Place Names</i>.</p> <p>(2) Roberts, S. 2002. <i>A History of Wirral</i>. Phillimore. Chichester.</p> <p>(3) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. <i>A History of the County of Chester</i>. Victoria County History. University of London.</p> <p>(4) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. <i>The Buildings of England: Cheshire</i>. Penguin Harmondsworth.</p> <p>(5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.</p>

## Tranmere

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban
OS map Sheet:	SJ 38 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 318 871 Watt's Heath SJ 326 867 Hinderton/Lower Tranmenre SJ 324 878 Clifton Park SJ 320 879
District:	Wirral
Township:	Tranmere
Geology:	Triassic Pebble Beds of Bunter Sandstone are partly overlain by Boulder Clay and, in the inter-tidal areas and sections of reclaimed land, Alluvium.
Historic Core:	A rectangular settlement along Church Road with the back lane, Greenway Road running parallel. The settlement extended from the junction with Well Lane north to Elm Lane. There were three smaller nucleations in the vicinity, the first was Clifton Park around the junction of Whetstone Lane and Pearson Road to the north of the core, the second, Hinderton, was near the modern Green Lane Station, and a third Watt's Heath was in the triangle between Old Chester Road and Grove Road near St Paul's Church (1854-5).
Origin of Name:	Tranemul (1202) Norse, meaning cranes' sandbank (1; 2). From <i>trane mul</i> . Mentioned in a charter during the reign of King John (1199-1216). An alternative interpretation is <i>Tre yn Moel</i> meaning hill village (1).
Topography:	Tranmere is located on an elevated Sandstone plateau overlooking the Mersey. The original settlement of Tranmere lies in the east of the township on higher land (around 30m).
History:	The township is thought to have encompassed three individual settlements: Hinterton; Watts Heath and Tranmere. As a group they were known as Summerford in the Domesday Book (3). Tranmere formed the political centre. This is evidenced in a document attested before Jacobi D. Audeley, as Chief Justice of Chester in 1266. The manor remained in the possession of the Tranmolls family until the late fourteenth century, when it became divided between the two surviving female descendants (4).

Present landmarks:	<p>St Catherine's Church (1831), constructed after Tranmere broke away from the parish of Bebington (4). = St Josephs R.C. Church (1899-1900) (5). St Catherine's Hospital (late nineteenth century) part of which is a former workhouse (5). Tranmere Cross (fifteenth century) in Victoria Park moved to present location in 1937 (6). Central Library, Borough Road (1931-34); a white-stone neo-Georgian building which features stained-glass windows, including one of one of Birkenhead's most famous sons, Wilfred Owen (6).</p>
Historic landmarks:	<p>Tranmere Old Hall (early seventeenth century) stood on Prenton Road, demolished 1863. The Hall was probably built on the site of an earlier Hall (7). Tranmere Mill (post-medieval) situated on Mill Street was demolished in the 1870's, possibly built on, or close, to the site of a medieval mill (5).</p>
Early Activity:	<p>There have been some prehistoric spot finds in the area of Tranmere Pool including a polished Neolithic axe with haft, and a perforated axe hammer (7). Roman artefacts including pottery and a coin indicate that the Romans took advantage of the elevated position of the Sandstone ridge on which would have been a prime site overlooking the Mersey estuary (7). Medieval fisheries, along the coastline, are well attested in early documents.</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>There are a few records of post-medieval buildings and the village still retains its typical post-medieval rectangular lay-out between Greenway Road, the back lane, and Church Road, the main village street. There is cartographic evidence of a field boundary ditch. Later evidence includes an air-raid shelter at 886, Borough Road. The area of Church Road maintains more historic character than other areas of the township, with some late nineteenth century buildings (5).</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	<p>Hindertons, a small fishing hamlet centred just south of the modern Green Lane Station.</p>
Maps:	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882. Tranmere Tithe Map 1843.</p>
References:	<p>(1) Dodgson, J. 1972. <i>English Place Names</i>. (2) Eckwall, E. 1960. <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names</i>. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.(3) Sulley, P. 1889. <i>The Hundred of Wirral</i>. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.</p>

- (4) Mortimer, W. W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (7) Chitty, G. 1983. *Wirral Urban Areas Survey Report*. Merseyside County Council. Liverpool.

## Upton

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 270 881 Overchurch SJ 264 890
District:	Wirral
Township:	Upton
Geology:	Keuper Red Marl Sandstone. This surfaces within the settlement, but in the rest of the township is overlain by Boulder Clay.
Historic Core:	Linear settlement along the roads The Village, Moreton Road and Ford Road.
Origin of Name:	Optone (1086). Farm on a hill (1). From <i>upp tūn</i> . Ouptone c.1328 (1).
Topography:	Upton is situated on a low-lying plain in the centre of north Wirral.
History:	<p>At Domesday the manor of Upton is recorded as being in the ownership of William Malbank. It passed to the Praersb and Orrebies families; it then went through the Arderne family and through marriage went into the possession of Baldwin of Bold in 1310. His family held the manor for six generations before the hall and the manor were bought from them in 1614. In subsequent years it passed to the earls of Derby. The township contains the parish of Overchurch, the ancient parish church standing about <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> mile from the historic settlement core (2).</p> <p>The settlement may be modest in size (recorded as 141 persons in 26 households in 1801), but it was formerly considered of sufficient importance to host two annual fairs, and, until 1620, a weekly market (2). The settlement core has been swamped by suburban development in the twentieth century.</p>
Present landmarks:	St Mary's Church (1868) and St Josephs R.C. Church (1953). Upton Hall Convent School is a two-storey stucco building with a four-column stone porch (1863) (3). Upton Manor built in 1857 by shipping magnate William Inman (3; 4).
Historic landmarks:	The first church in the township of Upton stood at Overchurch in a curvilinear churchyard. This building

was Anglo Saxon. It was rebuilt in the Norman period, although some of the Saxon stone was reused (5). The church decayed over many years, the steeple being damaged in a storm in 1709 (2). The remains of this site are still extant, and an area nearby was excavated in 1989, revealing ridge and furrow, but no associated structures or evidence of the settlement. The church was again rebuilt in 1813, but this church was on a new site near the centre of the village. This building again reused the Saxon and Norman masonry. This church was demolished in 1887 (5).

Upton Hall (Elizabethan) was built by Thomas Webster, is recorded as having been a low building with bay windows and gables. There is a suggestion that there may have been an earlier building on the site. The well for this hall has also been identified in excavation work. Some historic buildings are also extant, including: Oak Cottage, Arrowe Park Road, Old Rose Cottage 21, Rake Lane, barn (seventeenth century).

A windmill (post-medieval) is evidenced through maps and documentary sources. It is thought to have stood on the road towards Saughall Massie.

Early Activity:

Spot finds include prehistoric flint and Romano-British pottery. Evaluation excavation at Overchurch in Upton revealed minimal evidence for occupation. The finds recovered included five worked pieces of flint, although all may be waste flakes, and six shards of medieval pottery (6). In the 1887 demolition of the third church a hogback stone was discovered, the runic inscription read "the people erected a memorial ... pray for Aethelmund" (5). This stone is now in the Grosvenor Museum. Undated field marks, identified in aerial photographs in the open space in the north-west of the township, to the south east of the A5027/M53 roundabout may relate to drainage of the land for agriculture. Medieval ridge and furrow has also been identified adjacent to the old church site (7).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Upton grew slowly until the twentieth century, since the 1930s residential development has expanded onto local farmlands. The settlement of Upton has been bounded by the M53 motorway to the east, the motorway connector road to the north and the Upton bypass to the west and south. The township extends to the north-west along Saughall Massie Road, and the character of this area is also suburban.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

The parish of Overchurch is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882, and a small settlement near Upton Manor called Overchurch Hill, locates the parish church.

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882.  
Upton Tithe Map 1839.

References:

- (1) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place Names*.
- (2) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.
- (3) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (4) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*. Phillimore. Chichester.
- (5) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral: an illustrated review*. The Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.
- (6) Philpott, R.A. 1989. *Report on the Site Evaluation at Overchurch, Upton, Wirral (Site 07)*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.
- (7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.



## Wallasey

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Urban
OS map Sheet:	SJ 29 SE
NGR (centred):	(Phase 1) SJ 295 921 (Phase 2) SJ 292 925
District:	Wirral
Township:	Wallasey
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone, Boulder Clay, Blown Sand and Alluvium.
Historic Core:	<p>The historic core was established between the roads Wallasey Village, St Hilary's Brow, Claremont Road and Sandy Lane. The Kingston Estate map of 1665 shows the bulk of the post-medieval housing to be established between Broadway and Church Hill, in the vicinity of St Hilary's Church. The Tithe Map of 1841 shows a linear development along Claremont Road.</p> <p>The concentration of dwellings on Village oadhis road is clearly visible on Burdett's Map of 1777. Development of Claremount Road in Wallasey is later and probably due to population increase and pressure for land, from the middle of the nineteenth century onwards.</p>
Origin of Name:	<p>Walea (1086). Island of the Welsh (1) or Britons (2). Known during the medieval period as <i>Kirkby Waley</i> (1). Walleye 1259; Walezey 1534; Wallowsy 1721.</p>
Topography:	<p>The settlement of Wallasey lies on the east side of a linear outcrop of rock which runs north - south. The historic landmark of St Hilary's Church is near the top of the hill on Claremount Road. The land slopes down fairly steeply to the east and west of the ridge.</p>
History:	<p>Wallasey township is thought to have been once an isolated peninsular of land, separated from the rest of Wirral by the sea, estuary and almost impenetrable moss land. The east and west float docks now mark the line of the south 'coast' of the island. Norse settlers are thought to have arrived from Ireland, the island being easier to access from the sea, although archaeological evidence for there presence is limited to place name evidence within the township (3). At Domesday Robert of Rhuddlan is recorded as holding Walea (4). It passed through several important families including the Baron of Halton, the Litherlands, the Stanleys (Earl of Derby), the Earl of Kingston and to the</p>

Vyners, who held the manor in the nineteenth century (4).

Present landmarks: St Hilary's Church tower (thirteenth century), in the churchyard of St Hilary's Church. The tower remains from a demolished church. It has been altered, and the windows of the upper levels are dated to the sixteenth century. The curvilinear churchyard suggests possible early origins (5). The dedication to St Hilary may suggest a late Roman Date (6). No church is, however, recorded in the Domesday Book (4).  
St Hilary's Rectory (reputed to have been built in 1632).  
St Hilary's Church (1858-9) stone-built large Victorian church.  
Leasowe Castle (1593) has been much altered in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It now operates as a hotel (7).  
The Derby Pool (c.1933) was a popular swimming pool in the summer; now converted into a public house (3).

Historic landmarks: Wallasey Hall (c.1604) was a stone Manor House, with mullioned windows. There is a suggestion that it could have been early fifteenth century. It stood between the church and the rectory, and was demolished by the Rector in 1862-3 (8).  
Wallasey Windmill (1765); demolished in 1887 (9).

Early Activity: A Neolithic polished stone axe and a Neolithic/Bronze Age perforated adze-hammer have been found on the banks of what is now the inland extent of the estuary (9).  
The skeleton of 'Leasowe Man' was recovered from the foreshore near Leasowe Castle in 1864 and dates from the Roman period, making it the oldest complete inhumation found in Merseyside (9).  
Later Romano-British artefacts including a copper spearhead, fibula and coins have been found across from Wallasey to the Leasowe side of the Bidston Moss, and up to the north coast.  
Field divisions in the extension of the development suggest new formal laid-out plots, rather than reuse of older divisions (9).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The area developed considerably after the post-medieval period, with a massive population increase (from 274 in 1801 to 1,940 in 1881), and the construction of most of the significant buildings.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None.

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 7. Surveyed 1874-75. Published 1882.

References:

- Wallasey Tithe Map 1841.  
Burdett's Map of Cheshire 1777.
- (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
  - (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place Names*.
  - (3) Roberts, S. 2002. *A History of Wirral*
  - (4) Sulley, P. 1889. *The Hundred of Wirral*. B. Haram and Co. Birkenhead.
  - (5) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.
  - (6) Cowell, R. 1992. *Valley Road Business Park, Bidston Moss, Wirral: Archaeological Assessment: Final Report*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.
  - (7) Woods, E.C. and Brown, P.C. 1960. *The Rise and Progress of Wallasey*. Wallasey Corporation.
  - (8) Pritt, W. 1893. *An Account of Wallasey*. Transactions of the Historical Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. Vol. 43-4.
  - (9) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## West Kirby

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NW
NGR (centred):	West Kirkby SJ 219 863 Hill Houses SJ 215 872
District:	Wirral
Township:	West Kirby
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone, Boulder Clay, Blown Sand and Alluvium.
Historic Core:	The settlement of West Kirby was originally established at the junction of Rectory Road, St Bridget's Lane and Village Road.
Origin of Name:	West Kirby: Cherchebia (1081). Village with a Church (1; 2). From Old Norse <i>Kirkju-byr</i> (2). Prefix West-used to distinguish it from Kirkby in Wallia, now called Wallasey (2). Kyrkeby 1137; Westkyrby 1287.
Topography:	The settlement is sited upon a natural terrace adjacent to the River Dee.
History:	The manor of West Kirby is not mentioned in the Domesday Book (3). It was awarded to Robert de Rodelent by William I, who in turn awarded the lands of West Kirby and Hilbre Island to the Monks of Utica from Normandy. The township later came under the governance of the convent of St Werburgh of Chester and then to the Abbot of Basingstoke. After the dissolution of the Monasteries, the estate was purchased by the Earl of Bridgewater.
Present landmarks:	St Bridget's Church (1869), on the site of the original church. The porch was added in 1876. Some fourteenth century masonry survives (4). The rectory (post-medieval, possibly Tudor) is a sandstone and brick building. Ring o' Bells (1810) is a sandstone building with mock timbering on the upper floor.
Historic landmarks:	St Bridget's Church (c.900 AD) is situated within a circular churchyard. Windmill (1840s), known as Grange Mill replaced an earlier timber peg mill. It is recorded in fieldnames, and a millstone remains in the settlement.

Early Activity: Mesolithic cores, blades and flakes found at Hilbre point and Red Rocks, now in Grosvenor Museum and Manchester Museum (5). A Neolithic tanged-and-barbed flint arrowhead has been discovered, now in Grosvenor Museum (5). An early Bronze Age inverted urn was exposed by sea erosion in 1965. It is damaged, and there is no trace of cremation. Several earlier discoveries of inverted urns are recorded as containing cremations, but none of these sites has been accurately located (5). Romano-British coins have been found in York Avenue, Princes Avenue, Mount Road around the settlement core. Five pieces of Anglo-Saxon sculptured stones have been found in the churchyard: three cross-heads, two cross shafts. An eleventh-century Hogback stone was also found in the churchyard of St Bridget's Church. The curvilinear form of the churchyard suggests an Anglo-Saxon date for the first church. A medieval coin was discovered on the coast to the south of the settlement core. (6)

Significant Post-Med Activity: During the mid-nineteenth century key turnpike roads were introduced from Birkenhead across north Wirral to Hoylake and West Kirkby (7). These routes were intended for the not only for industry but also for everyday passengers and 'early commuters' (7). The Hoylake railway line was then opened around 1883 linking West Kirkby, New Brighton, Seacombe and Birkenhead Park (7). By the 1930s the main electrified Wirral railway line from Liverpool had been opened (7). The 'Wirral Way' and Wirral Country Park (Britain's first country park (7)) was opened in 1968 along the disused railway route from West Kirkby to Hooton (7); designed as a 'recreational route' for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders (7).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

A cluster of houses named as Hill Houses are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, this is located around the present road, Darmond's Green, adjacent to the modern settlement core around the railway station.

Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Cheshire sheet 12. Surveyed 1871-72. Published 1882.  
West Kirkby Tithe map. 1844.  
West Kirkby Enclosure Award Map 1827.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place Names*.  
(3) Pearson, J. 2000. *Wirral : An Illustrated Review*. Bluecoat Press. Liverpool.

- (4) Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. 1971. *The Buildings of England: Cheshire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (7) Crosby, A. 1996. *A History of Cheshire*. Phillimore. Chichester.

## Woodchurch

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Rural
OS map Sheet:	SJ 28 NE
NGR (centred):	Woodchurch SJ 275 868 Woodchurch Green SJ 276 863
District:	Wirral
Township:	Woodchurch
Geology:	Bunter Sandstone and Keuper Red Marl Sandstone partly overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core is based at the junction of Pool Lane, Church Lane and Home Farm Road.
Origin of Name:	Odecerce (1096). Church in a wood or a wooden church (1; 2). May derive from Scandinavian <i>kirkja</i> . Hwodekerk c.1240; Wodekirke c.1250; Wodchurche 1511 (2).
Topography:	Woodchurch is situated on a gentle slope from a peak to the west around the site of Arrowe Park Hospital, and sloping down to the east to the M53 motorway.
History:	Although not mentioned in the Domesday Book, the settlement is recorded as 'Wude Church' in a grant to the Abbot and Covent of Chester in 1093. In the early seventeenth century the manor is recorded as being in the family name Adams (3).
Present landmarks:	Holy Cross Church (twelfth century) with later additions and rebuilds, including the north aisle added in 1964. The Rectory (c.1861) is a brick building on the site of the earlier parsonage (4). The Arrowe Park Hotel (early twentieth century) was built on the site of the former Horse and Jockey Inn (4).
Historic landmarks:	Woodchurch Parish School (c.1665) was built with money bequeathed by William Gleave, an alderman of London. (4) The Parsonage (c.1719) is known as Rectory on 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map, published 1882. It stood adjacent to the church yard. Associated with this was a dovecot. Smithy to the north west of Arrowe Park Hotel. (4) Well located on the north side of the churchyard, now below a footpath. (4)

- Early Activity: The earliest evidence for human activity within this township are a spearhead and miniature Bronze cauldron, thought to be Roman (5). In the medieval period this hamlet was nucleated around a church. The present Holy Cross Church is a twelfth century building, with later additions and rebuilds. The building was originally located in the centre of the settlement, although modern building to the north and west has now skewed this slightly, the church is still a focus of the village. The curvilinear nature of the church ground is indicative of early origins for the church, and the present church is certainly a rebuild of at least one earlier one. It is likely that any earlier church structure would have been built of wood, as indicated by the place name (4).
- Significant Post-Med Activity: New housing in the twentieth century expanded the size and population of the settlement. A formalised street layout following concentric circles partly follows the historic layout of Arrowe Park Road and the settlement core, but none of the historic field boundaries are reflected.
- Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: Woodchurch Green to the south of the settlement core is a small group of buildings on the edge of Arrowe Park.
- Maps: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 13. Surveyed 1845-75. Published 1882. Woodchurch Tithe Map 1849.
- References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.  
 (2) Dodgson, J. 1972. *English Place Names*.  
 (3) Mortimer, W.W. 1847. *The Hundred of Wirral*. Whittaker and Co. Birkenhead.  
 (4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.  
 (5) Elrington, C.R. 1987 reprint. *A History of the County of Chester*. Victoria County History. University of London.



## Settlement studies pro-forma key

<i>Rural/ Urban Fringe Report:</i>	Refers to inclusion in the 1980's series of reports reviewing the archaeology of Merseyside's rural fringes. Only Wirral had a report covering some urban areas
<i>OS Map Sheet:</i>	Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet e.g. SJ28NE
<i>NGR (centred)</i>	Current National Grid Reference locator to 6 figures
<i>District:</i>	Local authority administrative area i.e. Wirral
<i>Township:</i>	Historic township i.e. Barnston
<i>Geology:</i>	Solid and drift geology
<i>Historic Core:</i>	Where relevant and identifiable from the key historic map source (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map sheet Lancashire or Cheshire). Location by current street names. Where possible, identification of likely earliest settlement
<i>Origin of Name:</i>	Etymological origins for the place name
<i>Topography:</i>	Generally within township area
<i>History:</i>	General to the township area / historic family ownership ownership in medieval and post-medieval periods.
<i>Present landmarks:</i>	Generally some extant sites and areas (in accordance with HER sources)
<i>Historic landmarks:</i>	Generally some former sites and areas subsequently developed (from HER sources)
<i>Early Activity:</i>	Generally including evidence from the prehistoric to the medieval periods (from HER sources).
<i>Significant Post-Med Activity:</i>	Generally including evidence from the post-medieval onwards (from HER sources)
<i>Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation</i>	From the key historic map source (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map sheet Lancashire or Cheshire)
<i>Maps:</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map sheets Lancashire or Cheshire plus any others used or noted
<i>References:</i>	Key book/ article /journal and HER sources used.

## **Merseyside Historic Environment Record date periods**

- Mesolithic: 10,000 - 4001 BC
- Neolithic: 4000 - 2,351 BC
- Bronze Age: 2,350 - 751 BC
- Iron Age: 750 BC - 42AD
- Roman: 43-409 AD
- Early Medieval/Dark Age 410-1065 AD
- Medieval 1066 – 1539 AD
- Post-Medieval 1540 – 1750 AD
- Industrial Revolution 1751 – 1900 AD
- (Industrial Revolution I 1751 – 1835 AD)
- (Industrial Revolution II 1836 – 1900 AD)
- Empire 1901 – 1917 AD
- Modern 1901 – 2050 AD

## **Glossary**

*Assart* – ‘Originally an enclosure, but then more particularly a clearing or enclosure in a forest, and more rarely in other waste land.’ (1)

*Assize* – ‘Royal declarations were called Assizes, and so were judicial proceedings such as The Possessory Assizes. In addition, decisions reached by an assembly were sometimes said to be assized – most commonly in the case of assized rents.’ (1)

*Berewick* – ‘A subsidiary or outlying estate.’ (1)

*Bovate* – ‘A variable measure related to the amount of land an ox could plough in a year and the soil quality.’ (1)

*Burguage* – ‘A small field, usually less than half an acre, a short distance from the farmhouse.’ (1)

*Demesne* – ‘Land retained by the lord of the manor for his own use and upon which tenants gave free service according to the customs of the manor. Land which was part of the main farm of the manor.’ (1)

*Domesday/Domesday Survey* – The Domesday Book was commissioned by William the Conqueror (invader of England in 1066) and consists of two volumes compiled in 1085/6 registering all taxable land in England. ‘The survey was compiled hundred by hundred, vill by vill, within each shire.’ (1)

*Fee* - an estate.

*Freehold/Freeland* – ‘A free tenure and not subject to the custom of the manor or the will of the lord. Its disposal after death was without restriction.’

*Hamlet* – ‘A small village, usually without a church and under the jurisdiction of, and in the same parish as, another village or town.’ (1)

*Hundred (West Derby)* – ‘A division of a shire especially important in Saxon and Norman times.’ (1)

*Manor* – ‘The land held by a lord.’ (1)

*Messuage* – ‘A house, its outbuildings and yard and, in some instances, the garden a well.’ (1)

*Rood* – ‘A crucifix; a name generally applied to the large cross at the entrance to the chancel in Roman Catholic churches.’ (1)

*Rural Fringe Report* - reference to the 1980’s series of reports reviewing the archaeology of Merseyside’s rural fringe, the data gathering and field work for which formed the basis of the Historic Environment Record.

*Seigniority* – ‘A lord’s holding of land, usually a manor.’ (1)

*Thane/Thegn* – ‘An Old English term for one who was part of the king’s household or his military elite.’ (1)

*Tithe Map*– ‘Tithe maps were produced, mainly in the period 1838 – 1854, and were drawn to a scale between 13 and 26 inches to the mile.’ Accompanied by Tithe Apportionments, or records, under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836 listing the owners and occupiers of land. (1)

*Township* – ‘A vague term denoting a group of houses which formed a unit of local administration. Generally the term was superseded, after the conquest, by *Vill*.’ (1)

*Vill* – ‘A settlement which could be a parish, manor or tithing.’ (1)

Reference: (1) Richardson J. 1981. *The Local Historian’s Encyclopedia*. Historical Publication Limited. Hertfordshire.

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