

Sefton Historic Settlement Study

Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project

December 2011

Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project
Museum of Liverpool
Pier Head
Liverpool L3 1DG

© Trustees of National Museums Liverpool and English Heritage 2011



Contents

Introduction to Historic Settlement Study.....	1
Aintree.....	4
Birkdale.....	7
Bootle.....	11
Churchtown.....	15
Crossens.....	19
Ford.....	22
Formby.....	24
Great Crosby.....	29
Ince Blundell.....	32
Linacre.....	36
Litherland.....	38
Little Crosby.....	41
Lunt.....	45
Lydiate.....	48
Maghull.....	53
Melling.....	56
Netherton.....	61
Orrell.....	64
Seaforth.....	66
Sefton.....	69
Southport.....	73
Thornton.....	76
Waterloo.....	79
Settlement studies pro-forma key.....	81
Merseyside Historic Environment Record date periods.....	82

Glossary.....	83
---------------	----

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 18th 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.

Sarah-Jane Farr
Merseyside Archaeological Officer
Museum of Liverpool
National Museums Liverpool

Aintree

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 381 984
District:	Sefton
Township:	Aintree
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Bunter Sandstone, largely overlain with drift deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand with pockets of boulder clay to the north-east and a band of alluvium silts almost bounding the township to the north-east/south-east.
Historic Core:	A small linear settlement to the east of the centre of the township on School Lane heading north-eastwards up Bull Bridge Lane.
Origin of Name:	Ayntre (1220). Single tree, possibly used as a meeting point within flat landscape. From Old Norse <i>einn</i> and <i>tré</i> (1).
Topography:	Aintree lies on relatively flat ground, bounded to the east by a narrow band of floodplain. Land has largely been given over to expanding modern urbanisation. The majority of enclosed land shown on the 1769 Molyneux estate map was for agricultural use, with mossland prevalent to the south. By the mid-nineteenth century new features such as the Liverpool – Preston railway, Leeds – Liverpool canal and Aintree racecourse changed the landscape dramatically.
History:	<p>The township was not recorded separately in Domesday (2) but was part of the demesne of West Derby (3). It was held in thegnage by Henry de Holland of Downholland in Halsall, with most of the township granted out to Alan de Holland, Robert de Molyneux, Henry son of Gilbert, Hawise daughter of Richard and Cockersand Abbey in 1212 (2). The Molyneux share was granted in to Alice de Molyneux and the son of Richard Baret before descending to the Ridgate or Rugate family, ownership was then sold to Lawrence son of Henry Molyneux in 1490 (2).</p> <p>The remaining majority of the township was in the possession of William de Aintree in 1296, passing to through various descendents of the de Aintree family. The manor of Aintree was held in 1387 by Sir Thomas Nevill, son of Sir Robert Nevill of Hornby. Ownership was passed down through the sisters of Sir Thomas whose descendents would eventually divide and sell the inheritance. (2)</p>

Since the sixteenth century the greater part of the manor of Aintree was held by the Molyneux family of Sefton with smaller estates held by a number of individuals including Richard Lathom in 1678 (2).

Present landmarks:

Valley House (No. 2 Valley Close) is a seventeenth century farmhouse with alterations and additions (4). Aintree racecourse and golf centre occupy much of the central and eastern land. In the south-west corner of the course the three storey County Grandstand had been erected during the early-nineteenth century, with later additions in 1885 (4).

Kirkdale cemetery lies to the south-west corner of the township, and farmland to and beyond the north boundary. Much of the remaining land surrounding the racecourse to the north, south and west comprises of built-up residential areas.

The Leeds-Liverpool canal and Liverpool-Preston railway pass through the township.

The M57 bounds the township to the east. At the extreme northern urban/rural fringe of Aintree, bounded by Maghull and Netherton, lies Switch Island which marks the western terminus for both the M57 and M58, also joining with Dunning's Bridge Road (A5036) and the A59; the main northern route out of Merseyside.

Historic landmarks:

Aintree Mill dated to the medieval period (3) and was located north-west of Mill Farm, close to the River Alt, appearing on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 and named on Greenwood (1818) and Hennett (1830) maps of Lancashire. (4)

The land currently occupied by Aintree racecourse was recorded as 'Common Moss' on the estate map and named as 'New Race Course' on Hennett's map (1830). Racing here dates from 8 July 1829 (3) and the world-famous Grand National started as the Grand Liverpool Steeplechase in 1839 (4).

Aintree Hall, a post-medieval manor house, was located north of Aintree Lane, and is shown on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 and named on Hennett's map (1830). Once occupied by the Lathom family of Aintree. (4)

Aintree School, shown as a dwelling on the Molyneux estate map of 1769, was a small catholic boarding school during the seventeenth century (4).

Early Activity:

A spot-find consisting of a prehistoric worked black flint nodule was discovered south-east of Mill Farm, bounded by the River Alt to the north and canal to the south (4).

The discovery of two further finds spots of a prehistoric axe head and a flint core found in ploughed fields led to an archaeological evaluation by Oxford Archaeology North, prior to the construction of pipeline by United Utilities in 2004 (5). The site was located towards the

eastern boundary of the township, adjacent to where the Leeds-Liverpool canal passes over the River Alt. Three pits were discovered during the evaluation which produced no further evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity; only sherds of post-medieval pottery and glass were recovered (4). There is substantial evidence for prehistoric settlement within the Alt Valley where several sites have been located within peat deposits in the surrounding mosslands on sandy islands or ridges during the North West Wetland Survey during the 1990s (5; 6). There is currently little evidence for the Roman and early-medieval periods in this area (5).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The township was primarily rural with dispersed settlement up until the nineteenth century. Numerous post-medieval farmsteads and cottages lie within the township (4). The north – south-east course of the River Alt had been straightened in an attempt to prevent flooding and erosion (3).

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

Maps: Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/16). Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5). Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDPR 144/11). Hennet G. 1830 West Derby Hundred map (LRO). 1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (3) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (5) Blythe K. 2005. *Melling to Fazakerley Wastewater Transfer Pipeline*. Oxford Archaeology North evaluation report.
- (6) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. Lancaster.

Birkdale

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SD 31 SW
NGR (centred):	SD 330 140
District:	Sefton
Township:	North Meols
Geology:	The solid geology consists of Triassic Keuper Marl overlain by drift deposits of blown sand and peat. A narrow north-south coastal strip, originally relatively fertile, lies between sand-dunes to the west and peat deposits to the east.
Historic Core:	A small settlement expanding from a largely dispersed cluster of buildings in the north-east of the township, centred around present day Liverpool Road, Shaftesbury Road, Sandon Road to the west and Grantham Road to the east.
Origin of Name:	Birkdale (c.1850) from Birkedale c1200. Birch tree valley (1). From Old Norse <i>birki</i> . Birkdale was formerly a part of Argarmeles, a 'sand-hill' destroyed by the sea around the fourteenth/fifteenth century (1; 2). Bertel and Birthile are other forms recorded during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (1).
Topography:	A near-coastal settlement, the seashore to the west is flat with an undulating belt of sand-dunes. Further inland from the shore, the ground remains relatively flat. Numerous ditches drain the lower portions of the district which can be subject to flooding along the sea coast.
History:	The manor of Argarmeols (resettled as Birkdale in the post-medieval period), was held by Wilbert in 1066 (3; 4). By 1346 Argarmeols, had disappeared, probably destroyed by the sea (4). The loss was declared by lords of the manor until the sixteenth century (4). The manor descended through the Halsall family until c.1632 when Sir Cuthbert Halsall sold Birkdale to Robert Blundell of Ince. The manor then descended through the Ince Blundell estate, with the whole township being in possession of the Weld-Blundell family until the early twentieth century (5; 3). Numerous disputes over post-medieval boundary ditches involved various parties during this time (3).
Present landmarks:	Royal Birkdale Golf Course was originally founded in 1889 as a nine-hole course at Bedford Park, before moving in 1897 to its present location amongst the coastal Birkdale Hills.

Sefton Coastal Path runs alongside the coastal sand-dunes.

The main Liverpool – Southport railway line runs through Birkdale with late nineteenth century stations at Hillside and Birkdale.

Historic landmarks:

The site of a medieval boundary cross named Breeing Stone was known to have stood on the corner of Grove Street and Mosley Street in 1529 (6). The stone marked the northern township boundary between Birkdale and North Meols, close to the windmill in Birkdale village.

The site of the cross is now built over. The base of the cross remained for many years in a ditch where funeral processions would stop and sprinkle water from the socket of the base stone (6).

Shore Cross was located near the sea, north-west of Breeing Stone (6).

Birkdale School is shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848, to the west of the settlement core, on the north side of Sandon Road. Land now built over (7).

Archaeological building recording of 'The Cottage', 74 Liverpool Road, took place prior to renovation works (5). The Cottage originally dates from the sixteenth century and until 1944 had had a timber-framed wattle and daub chimneys and thatched roof. Previously owned by the Rimmer family. (5)

The site of a post-medieval windmill had been located at the junction of Banastre Road and Mosley Road (7).

Early Activity:

During the 1950s and 1970s studies were carried out on the stratigraphic sequences of the coastal belt of lowland mosses between Liverpool and Southport (8).

The origin of the dunes along Sefton's coast can probably be traced as far back as 8500 BP. The main early phases of dune building appear to have occurred at 4600 - 4000 BP, with intermittent phases of activity throughout the Prehistoric period. Despite these early origins, most of the present dune system probably originated in the seventeenth century (9).

In the late nineteenth century, pre-1874, a burial containing a human skeleton and the bones of a red deer were discovered during the construction of a main sewer in Gloucester Road (at the junction with York Road) (7). The remains were found in a peat bed and are believed to date from the Mesolithic/Neolithic period. The skull and red deer bones were presented to the Royal College of Surgeons and the rest of the skeleton were left in-situ due to difficulties in removing it (10). The site is now covered with urban development and it is unlikely that any further archaeological information will be forthcoming (7).

Evidence for Roman activity along the Sefton coast is generally limited (8), however, several Roman coins including a silver denarius of Hadrian (AD117 - 38) and

coins of Vespasian (AD69 - 79) have been discovered in a field on the Birkdale side of Halsall Moss (7).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms and cottages recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period. Fishing stalls are also known to have been established in this area (4). A single reference to a walkmill (3; 4) implies part of the process of linen manufacture. From the sixteenth century marram grass planting took place in order to stabilise the sand dunes which was gathered for use in other industries such as thatching (9). During the late nineteenth century Birkdale rapidly developed into an urban area becoming part of the southern suburbs of Southport.

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

Argarmeles: washed away by the sea by the fifteenth century (2).

Maps:

Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5).
Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDP R 144/11).
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO).
Birkdale Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRL 1/10).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 82. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1848.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Fletcher M. 1997. *The Cottage, 74 Liverpool Road, Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside*. North West Archaeological Services.
- (6) Taylor H. 1906. *The Ancient Crosses and Holy Wells of Lancashire*. Manchester.
- (7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (8) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. North West Wetlands Survey 1: *The Wetlands of Merseyside. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit*.
- (9) Adams M., Harthen D. & Cowell R. 2007 *An Archaeological Assessment of the Sefton Coast*,

Merseyside. National Museums Liverpool Field
Archaeology Unit.
(10) Reade T.M. 1874. *Human Skull and Bones of Red
Deer*. Journal of Royal Anthropology hist. 3.

Bootle

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 SW / SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 346 952
District:	Sefton
Township:	Bootle
Geology:	<p>The solid geology comprises of Triassic Bunter Sandstone to the west and Keuper Sandstone to the east, sometimes outcropping in areas. Overlain by a mix of drift deposits of mainly blown sand and boulder clay.</p>
Historic Core:	<p>The historic core is originally shown on Yates & Perry's map of 1768 as a substantial enclosed nucleated area of land bounded by present day Merton Road/Oxford Road to the south, Litherland Road to the west, Waterworks Road to the north and Hawthorne Road/Derby Park to the east.</p> <p>The Tithe Map of 1839 shows Bootle Village made up of clusters of enclosed crofts with a waterworks located on the northern fringes, surrounded by open farmland. The Leeds-Liverpool canal is also shown running past the north-western side of the village.</p> <p>The OS 1st Edition map of 1851 shows the development of industries in and around the village. Bootle Chemical Works is shown at the northern environs of the village with a tannery and several inns within the village also having been established. A sandstone quarry is also shown just south-east of the village and a bowling green at the south-west corner. There is significant change to the western strip of township coastline where there had been a significant programme of land reclamation of marshland to cater for the expanding dock industries and associated residential areas. The rapid growth of Bootle during the nineteenth century, initially as a seaside resort (1), meant that Bootle Village and neighbouring farmland was eventually subsumed into the expanding urban and heavily industrialised environment.</p>
Origin of Name:	<p>Boltelai (1086). A dwelling house. From Old English <i>bōtl</i>. Botle 1212, Botel 1284, Bothull 1332 (2).</p>
Topography:	<p>The township lies at the southern end of the coastal dune strip occupying an elevated position overlooking the Mersey estuary and the lower valley of Rimrose Bank.</p>

History:	<p>The Domesday Survey lists Bootle as being held by four thanes under Roger of Poitou as four manors. The township of Linacre was attached to the Bootle manor. (3) The district subsequently passed to Warin Busel then by marriage through various families before the manor was purchased by the Stanley family in the late sixteenth century. By the end of the seventeenth century the earl of Derby took ownership of Bootle, along with Linacre, where it has since descended (3). The township was eventually incorporated into Liverpool as a municipal borough in 1868 (3). Bootle was a main target by Nazi Germany during the Liverpool Blitz in World War II with 85% of housing destroyed or damaged (4).</p>
Present landmarks:	<p>Derby Park, situated just east of Bootle village, was opened to the public in 1895 on land given by Lord Derby. The land had previously been enclosed as farmland shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 (5). The park is bounded by Oxford Road, Worcester Road, Earl Road and Fernhill Road. The site covers an area of c.24 acres on an original rectangular site sloping from south to north. The park contains bowling greens, glasshouses, bandstand, ornamental lake and play areas (6).</p> <p>A shooting lodge owned by Lord Derby stands at No.s 1 (originally the kitchen wing) to 3 (Old Hall) Merton Road, within Bootle Village. It is thought to be Bootle's oldest occupied house dating from around the 1730s (7). A rainwater head at No. 3 has the Derby crest (eagle and child in a cradle) dated 1777; altered in the late nineteenth century.</p> <p>The earliest church in Bootle, west of Bootle Village, is St Mary's Church, consecrated in 1827 (3).</p> <p>The Leeds-Liverpool canal passes through Bootle, as does the main Liverpool-Southport railway line through the centre.</p> <p>The Strand shopping centre located north-west of the core, over the canal, was built in the 1960s as part of Bootle's town redevelopment, later expanded in the 1990s (1).</p>
Historic landmarks:	<p>From 1799 Bootle supplied spring water to Liverpool from a stream which also powered a watermill, first mentioned in a document of 1395 (8). This source was in use until the late nineteenth century (9). Bootle Spring and mill pond are marked on Yates & Perry's 'A Map of the Environs of Liverpool', 1768.</p> <p>The earliest reference given for Bootle windmill is recorded from 1346 "Windmill" of Ed More of ye old Lypol and Bank Halle." (9) Also records Bootle Mill as being built c.1750. Yates and Perry's 'A Map of the Environs of Liverpool', 1768, shows the windmill standing on the north bank of the brook which ran seaward from Bootle Springs, and a little east of the</p>

watermill and its closest mill pond. A map dating from 1798 included in Binns collection, vol. 34 (ref BI/43, Picton Library Liverpool) depicts a mill in roughly same location (9). An article from Liverpool's Post and Mercury, August 1st 1934, shows the windmill, in Bootle Lane (now Westminster Road), destroyed by fire in 1834 having stood for about two hundred years (9). Numerous post-medieval boundary stones are marked on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1851.

Early Activity: There is little evidence for Prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon settlement due to the rapid development of the area for docks and housing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, a findspot recorded in the 1970s of three Roman coins has been located north-east of Bootle Village, between Fernhill Road and Windsor Road (10).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The earliest known date for a medieval watermill in Bootle dates from 1254 (8). The exploitation of spring water within the township continued throughout the post-medieval period. The importance of agriculture, and other small-scale industries, is also evidenced in the number of farmsteads and cottages recorded as having stood in this period.

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

None identified

Maps:

Yates W. & Perry G. 1768. 'A Map of the Environs of Liverpool.'
Yates W. 1786. Map of Lancashire. (LRO DR 179/5).
'Bootle – Traced from Survey' 1798. (Binns Collection Vol. 34).
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO).
Bootle-cum-Linacre Tithe Map 1839 (LRO DRL 1/12).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 106. Surveyed 1845-9. Published 1851.

References:

- (1) Pollard R. & Pevsner N. 2006. *The Buildings of England –Lancashire: Liverpool and the South-West*. Yale University Press.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Crosby A. 1998. *A History of Lancashire*. Phillimore.
- (5) English Heritage Historic Parks & Gardens, Merseyside Register Review, Derby Park, Sefton. 1996.

- (6) Gallagher C. 1994. *English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historical Interest – County Update: Merseyside*.
- (7) Whale D. 1985 *Lost Villages of Liverpool. Part One*. Prescott.
- (8) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (9) Adams M. & Ahmad C. 2005. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Proposed Seaforth Triangle River Berth Development, Liverpool, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool.
- (10) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

Churchtown

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SD 31 NE
NGR (centred):	SD 364 186
District:	Sefton
Township:	North Meols
Geology:	The area overlies drift deposits of alluvium and silt with an area of peat to the east, over a solid deposit of Triassic Keuper Marl.
Historic Core:	Churchtown, north-east of Southport, is shown as separate enclosed nucleated settlement along Botanic Road and Manor Road. During the nineteenth century the village was later subsumed into the north-eastern urban/rural suburb of Southport.
Origin of Name:	Church Town (c.1725) refers to the settlement around the church of St Cuthbert, on the site of an earlier church (1).
Topography:	The village stands on relatively flat ground, with a marshland to the north and west, and Martin Mere to the east.
History:	The Domesday survey of 1086 records 'Otegrimele', or North Meols, as five manors held by five thanes, included in the West Derby Hundred (2). Ownership was then divided between St Werburgh's Abbey at Chester and various earls and dukes of Lancaster during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (2). Robert de Cowdray took part possession in 1213 passing down through descendents (2). Alan de Meols held a quarter of the manor which later passed over to William de Cowdray who became lord of the whole manor by 1343 (2). The manor would eventually pass through several families including the Aughtons in 1380, the Bold and Kitchen families (through marriage) by the mid-sixteenth century, the Heskeths, (also through marriage) by the seventeenth century and the Fleetwoods during the nineteenth century (2).
Present landmarks:	St Cuthbert's Church was rebuilt in 1730-39 with later additions and improvements made in 1860, 1886 and 1908 when a new nave was constructed (3; 2). It is believed that the church stands on the site of an earlier medieval chapel, from the twelfth century, dedicated to St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, who died in AD 687 (3; 2). The old village stone stocks stand within in the

church grounds, erected by John Linacre in 1741, probably replacing original wooden stocks (4; 5). Meols Hall Manor House was first built in the thirteenth century by Robert de Coudray (4). A deer park is mentioned as having been created in 1311 (4). The descendants of the manor have included the Aughton, Kitchen and Hesketh families (4). The old hall was added and improved to in seventeenth century when gates were erected opposite the church in Churchtown (4). The hall retains a priest hole (4). The farm buildings are late seventeenth century in date (4). The stone base of a market cross now stands in at Meols Hall (4). Bold Manor House was built around 1550 by John Bold of Bold whose family resided there until 1612 and originally stood at the corner of Botanic Road and Manor Road (4; 3). It was later used as farmhouse before being rebuilt by Peter Bold M.P. in 1802 (4), now essentially modernised (5).

The Botanic Gardens were formed in 1874 with Otterpool stream running through (4), and had further twentieth century development (5). A medieval/post-medieval embankment runs inside the wall of the gardens from grounds at Meols Hall; originally named as 'Bankfields' in the seventeenth century (5).

Post-medieval woodland and a fishpond still exist east of Bankfield Lane and the village (5).

A series of post-medieval cottages and farmsteads remain in and around the village (4; 5).

The Bold Arms Hotel with stable and coachhouse to the rear on Botanic Road, and the Hesketh Arms inn, south of St Cuthbert's church are all extant post-medieval buildings (5).

Historic landmarks:

A watermill site situated on the Otterpool stream, adjacent to Meols Hall, was depicted as a small island named 'Milln Holm' on the Peter Bold estate map of 1683 (3; 5).

A windmill on Mill Lane had been attached to Meols Hall before it was burnt down and demolished in 1860 (5). It was later replaced by a steam mill but is now under modern housing (5).

The main entrance to the Botanic Gardens was originally the site of the village prison and pound (4). The prison was a small circular building with domed roof locally known as the Round House (4). Both were demolished in 1874 during the creation of the Botanic Gardens.

The village pump once stood at the junction of Cambridge Road and Botanic Road, in front of the church (4).

The Grammar School was built around 1700 by Lords of the Manor, Bold and Hesketh and was later rebuilt in 1828 until 1859 when it was demolished (4). It lay over the site of the original post-medieval grammar school founded in 1593 (5).

Early Activity:	<p>During the 1950s and 1970s studies were carried out on the stratigraphic sequences of the coastal belt of lowland mosses between Liverpool and Southport (6). Prehistoric finds have been discovered at Martin Mere to the east and Southport to the west (5). Two dug-out canoes of unknown date were found pre-1923 during the formation of Churchtown Gardens Lake (5). Evidence for Roman activity along the Sefton coast is limited.</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>Both farming and fishing were the main local occupations throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. A medieval eel fishery, c.1212-22, located on Otterpool stream and developed by Robert de Coudray prospered for centuries (2; 3). A charter for a market and fair is documented from 1219-20 although by 1224 had been withdrawn possibly due to competition with fish trade at Formby or Ravenmeols (3). During the late eighteenth century, handloom weaving was introduced by Miss Anna Maria Bold, Lady of the Manor from 1761 – 1813 (4). This industry grew until the mid-nineteenth century when business in the township diminished due to a slump (4).</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None identified
Maps:	<p>North Meols Estate Map for Peter Bold 1683. (LRO DDSc 151/23)</p> <p>North Meols Tithe Map 1839/40 (LRO DRL 1/57) 1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 75. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1848.</p>
References:	<p>(1) Mills, D. 1976. <i>The Place Names of Lancashire</i>. Batsford. London.</p> <p>(2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. <i>The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three</i>. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.</p> <p>(3) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. <i>The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside</i>. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.</p> <p>(4) Scholes J.H. 1947. <i>Churchtown in the Parish of North Meols</i>. Booklet produced by Botanic Gardens Museum, Southport.</p> <p>(5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.</p> <p>(6) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. <i>North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside</i>.</p>

Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on
Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

Crossens

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SD 32 SE
NGR (centred):	SD 375 203
District:	Sefton
Township:	North Meols
Geology:	The village stands on a raised island of drift boulder clay deposit surrounded by estuarine alluvium and silts, over a solid deposit of Triassic Keuper Marl.
Historic Core:	The Peter Bold estate map of 1683 shows a small, isolated, nucleated settlement adjacent to Crossens Field. The 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848 shows continued development of the linear settlement clustered along Rufford Road and surrounded by extensively cultivated land. Crossens is now marks the north-eastern urban/rural fringe of Southport.
Origin of Name:	Crossness (1240), Crossenes (c.1250), Crosnes (1327), Crossons (1550). Headland, or ness, on which a cross or crosses stand. From Old Norse <i>kross</i> and <i>nes</i> , and Old Irish <i>cros</i> (1; 2).
Topography:	The hamlet is a promontory at the mouth of the River Ribble (1) and stands upon a slight mound of boulder clay, surrounded by coastal flat ground (3).
History:	The Domesday survey of 1086 records 'Otegrimele', or North Meols, as five manors held by five thanes, included in the West Derby Hundred (3). Ownership was then divided between St Werburgh's Abbey at Chester and various earls and dukes of Lancaster during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (3). Robert de Cowdray took part possession in 1213 passing down through descendents (3). Alan de Meols held a quarter of the manor which later passed over to William de Cowdray who became lord of the whole manor by 1343 (3). The manor would eventually pass through several families including the Aughtons in 1380, the Bold and Kitchen families (through marriage) by the mid-sixteenth century, the Heskeths, (also through marriage) by the seventeenth century and the Fleetwoods during the nineteenth century (3). 'Crossens was in 1715 the scene of a skirmish between the royal troops and the highlanders; small canon balls, bayonets, and other relics have frequently been dug, some being preserved in the vestry of the church.' (3)
Present landmarks:	The pumping station at Crossens was built in 1961 over the site of original late seventeenth century flood gates

which were raised in 1714 (4). The Sluice had also been cut around the same time in an attempt to drain land at Martin Mere to the east (4). Coastal marshland to the west of Crossens is part of a National Nature Reserve within the Ribble estuary (5).

Historic landmarks: The site of the possible medieval 'Crossens Cross' once stood on a triangular piece of ground opposite the Plough Inn in the old village centre (6). The rectory for St Cuthbert's in Churchtown was located at Crossens (4). A new rectory, nearer the church, was built in 1825 (4; 3). The sites of two smithies within the village have been located from the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848 (6).

Early Activity: During the 1950s and 1970s studies were carried out on the stratigraphic sequences of the coastal belt of lowland mosses between Liverpool and Southport (5). Prehistoric finds have been discovered at Martin Mere to the east (6). The Reverend W.T. Bulpit's 'Notes on Southport and District' written in 1908 describes possible Bronze Age burial urns having been found c.1840 by Thomas Brookfield and supposedly had them deposited at Old Rufford Hall, Lancashire (6). The area has been extensively developed for modern housing and so any further evidence relating to the 'urns' is unlikely. Red deer horns and a human skull had been removed from a clay deposit at Crossens Mill; date unknown (6). Medieval enclosed fields, east of 'Crossens Field' are shown on the Peter Bold estate map of 1683 and are possibly the earliest surviving field system (4). In c.1250 an acre meadow named *Frere medu* was granted to the monks at Sawley Abbey (4). There are fragments of the fields which survive as an irregular shape bounded by narrow, shallow ditches under pasture east of the urban area (4). Evidence for Roman activity along the Sefton coast is limited.

Significant Post-Med Activity: Primarily a fishing village (3), the importance of agriculture is also evidenced in the number of extensively cultivated fields (3) recorded as having existed during the medieval and post-medieval periods. From 1809 onwards a series of embankments were created in North Meols in order to protect and maintain the coast and reclaim the coastal marshes (4).

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

Maps: North Meols Estate Map for Peter Bold 1683. (LRO DDS 151/23).

1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 75. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1848.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

Ford

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 336 987
District:	Sefton
Township:	Ford
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone overlain with drift deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand and boulder clay.
Historic Core:	The historic core is a small nucleated settlement adjacent to Ford Green, along Ford Lane.
Origin of Name:	la Forde (1323). From Old English ford. The Forde (1408); Forde (1547) (1; 2)
Topography:	Ford lies on raised ground where land drops steeply Rimrose Valley Country Park to the west. Common moss on the east side of the township. Rimrose Brook forms north and west boundaries.
History:	Ford and Orrell were originally attached to the ancient township of Litherland (3) and were held by the Molyneux family of Sefton c.1100 (4). Ford is only occasionally mentioned in medieval deeds (3). During the early eighteenth century Thomas Syers of Ford was the principal resident (3).
Present landmarks:	<p>A cross base is situated at the junction of Sterrix Lane with the main Sefton – Liverpool road. The base is circular, measuring 61cm in diameter and the circular socket hole 29cm diameter and 16cm deep (5). On the Molyneux estate map of 1769, there are two fields named as Cross Field Brow and Great Cross Field, on the western side of the road. The original site of the cross may have been on the corner of the road leading to Ford Green, but later road widening could have destroyed it (5).</p> <p>A cemetery lies to the east of Ford within an otherwise largely built-up residential area. Rimrose Valley Country Park lies to the west of the township boundary.</p> <p>The Leeds-Liverpool canal passes through Ford to the west and north of the township.</p>
Historic landmarks:	<p>Ford Lodge and Hatton House are both shown on the Molyneux estate map of 1769.</p> <p>A boundary stone is shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 at the north end of Brunel Drive, at the corner of Hill Avenue.</p>

In 1855 a Roman Catholic cemetery was opened along with an adjoining church of the Holy Sepulchre built in 1861.

Early Activity: A Roman copper-alloy coin of Titus (80-81AD), minted in Rome, was found in a garden on Northumberland Way (5).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Sefton sandstone quarry had been located in the south-east corner of the township on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850.
There are numerous post-medieval farmsteads in the township suggesting that agriculture was the main local industry.

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

Maps: Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/30)
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References: (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London. (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester. (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London. (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II. (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation. Environment Record.

Formby

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 20 NE / SJ 30 NW
NGR (centred):	Formby SD 300 069 Little Altcar SD 302 064 Old Town (north) SD 298 083 (south) SD 301 078 Ravenmeols SD 279 054 Ainsdale SD 311 122
District:	Sefton
Township:	Formby
Geology:	The solid geology consists of Triassic Keuper Marl overlain mainly by blown sand along the coast and slightly inland to the west with an area of Downholland Silt to the south and south-east, and Downholland Moss deposits to the east.
Historic Core:	Formby originally consisted mainly of dispersed hamlets and isolated farmsteads (1; 2). Documentary evidence suggests that the area included open fields from the thirteenth – nineteenth century (2). Formby Hall stood isolated to the north-east and remains outside the urban fringes of present day Formby. The possibility of a later small nucleated settlement lies further south, centred on Cross Green shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848 along Church Road, heading north-easterly up Priesthouse Lane and York Road and School Lane to the west. A little further southwards the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848 shows the hamlet of Little Altcar beginning to expand along Liverpool Road. Old Town to the north, along Old Town Lane, (now within the area of Freshfield) and settlement nearby, to the east, along Green Lane; consisting of few scattered farms and enclosures (1). The aforementioned areas would eventually become the far eastern and northern urban fringes of modern Formby, bounded on the east by the Formby-By-Pass (A565), having extended further westwards towards the coast.
Origin of Name:	Fornebei (1086). The old farmstead, alternatively Forni's farmstead, from Old Norse personal name. From Old Norse <i>for</i> n <i>býr</i> . Fornebi 1177, Forneby common until 1500, Formeby 1338 became common during the sixteenth century (3; 4).
Topography:	Generally undulating dune sand lies along the western coastal strip with land becoming flat further inland.

Formby Point is situated at the core of the Sefton coastal system which extends for 32 km between the Mersey and Ribble estuaries.

History:

Formby formed part of the West Derby Hundred during the time of the Domesday Survey (5). "In 1066 there were in Formby proper three manors, held by three thegns..." (4). A quarter of the manor also belonged to a family who also held Bootle and Woodplumpton; Quenilda, wife of Jordan de Thornhill, was tenant in 1212 (4). This portion was passed to the Formby family, Lords of Formby, by the thirteenth century, remaining in their possession until the early twentieth century (5). The remaining three quarters of the manor were granted to absentee lords. By the nineteenth century the Blundell family of Ince Blundell had taken the majority of possession and eventually passed Formby Point over to the National Trust (5). The manors and hamlets of Ravenmeols, to the south-west, and Ainsdale to the north, were originally part of the township of Formby (4). Ravenmeols was destroyed probably by sea and sand incursion by the sixteenth century (1).

Present landmarks:

The Hightown dunes are the last fragment of a much larger dune system which lay to the south of the River Alt, most of which is covered by residential areas and docklands. The current dune system is probably c.300-400 years old (5). There was dramatic coastal erosion during the early twentieth century due to the River Alt changing course.

The Formby Hall estate was in possession of the Formby family from the thirteenth century (1). The estate lies to the north-east, still within a rural setting, but now a part of the Formby Hall Hotel and Golf Course complex. There is an indication that the hall may have been moated due to the existence of a wide fishpond, connected to drainage ditches, east of the garden (1). The current house dates from around the sixteenth century although extensive alterations have taken place obscuring any earlier features (1).

St Luke's Church was built in 1855 'near the site of the ancient chapel' (4) (see below), located probably just to the south-east (2). The graveyard contains several grave markers possibly belonging to the earlier structure (1) and eighteenth century stocks moved from the original location at Cross Green (6). A medieval font stands inside the church (6).

The locally known 'Godstone' cross (medieval) stands in the churchyard at St Luke's consisting of a carved cross into a piece of masonry (1). The churchyard also accommodates the village cross from Cross Green removed at the end of the nineteenth century (1).

A sundial dated 1719 is located at St Peter's Church (post-medieval) which had perhaps been removed from St Luke's church in c.1746 (6).

Our Lady's Roman Catholic Church and burial ground lies on the north side of School Lane. It was originally built as a catholic chapel in 1688, later becoming a barn from 1688 – 1796, then a chapel again until 1864 when the building became cottages until 1930 when it was converted into a convent (6).

A number of post-medieval timber-framed cottages and wells lie within and around the area of Cross Green (6). School House on School Lane was built in 1659 (4), and later re-built in 1785 (4).

The main Liverpool-Southport railway line passes through the centre of Formby. Formby railway station was opened in 1848 (6).

Historic landmarks:

One chapel originally served Formby, Ainsdale and Ravenmeols but was destroyed due to the incursion of sand dunes (1). The existence of a chapel, possibly 'Formby Chapell' (1650), is inferred in late twelfth century grants to Cockersand Abbey (1). This was later abandoned in the 1730s following storms and sand inundation and a new chapel built further inland (1), later replaced with the present St Luke's Chapel in 1855 (4).

Two boundary crosses from c.sixteenth century are known to have existed; Cop Cross lay on the route between Cross Green and the churchyard and the 'Headless Cross' is named on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 (1).

Harington barracks, between Formby village and the coast, was constructed during World War II, eventually closing down in the 1960s and the site subsequently redeveloped (2).

There were numerous post-medieval boundary ditches, banks and field systems within Formby no longer located within the modern landscape (6).

Formby Old Windmill once stood adjacent to Old Mill Lane and Formby New Windmill (later becoming steam powered (6)), built in the nineteenth century, south side of Cable Street, are both named on the Formby Tithe Map 1845 and the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848.

Two pounds for stray animals and people (6) is named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848, one lies north-east of Cross Green, the other to the north-west.

Formby brewery dating from the nineteenth century is named on 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848; no longer standing (6).

Formby Lifeboat Station, Britain's first, was built in the eighteenth century (some time between 1771 -1776); now destroyed by the sea having been re-built several times (6).

Early Activity:

During the 1950s and 1970s studies were carried out on the area of Downholland Moss, to the east of Formby, where underlying peat and clay deposits have assisted in understanding fluctuating sea-levels since the last glaciation (7).

The origin of the dunes along Sefton's coast can probably be traced as far back as 8500 BP. The main early phases of dune building appear to have occurred at 4600-4000 BP, with intermittent phases of activity throughout the Prehistoric period. Despite these early origins, most of the present dune system probably originated in the seventeenth century (5).

The exposure of a suite of human and animal footprints formed in marine sediments weathering out on the foreshore has been locally known about since the 1970/80s (5). Prehistoric human and wild animal footprints in beach sediments at Formby Point occur in a 4 km belt between Formby and Ainsdale. Amongst the animal prints recorded are aurochs (large wild cattle) red deer, roe deer and wolf, and wading birds including crane prints. Some of the beds and footprint alignments exposed have been surveyed (5; 2). The footprints are believed to have been created between c.5100 BP and 3400 BP.

Three Roman coins have been recovered by metal detection from the foreshore at Formby hinting at possible activity from this period (5). An early medieval Persian or Arabic coin of uncertain date was also found (5).

Placename evidence suggests that townships with the *byr* suffix indicate settlement before Domesday (5).

Significant Post-Med Activity: From the sixteenth century there is documentary evidence for attempts to stabilise the dunes by planting marram grass and there is an increasing range and quantity of evidence for land-use in the area with rabbit warrens being established within the Formby dunes by at least 1667 (5; 2).

Asparagus was being cultivated domestically in the area during the eighteenth century, though commercial farming only began in the nineteenth century when the construction of the railway enabled the importation of large quantities of night soil from Liverpool for use as a fertilizer. This activity has now largely ceased, though its impact upon the landscape remains as a number of earthworks and other features across the landscape (5; 2). Abandonment of the asparagus beds began in the 1950s, when some were used for the dumping of de-nicotinised tobacco waste between 1956 and 1975 (5; 2).

Fishing and cockling also played an important part in the local economy, probably from early times, although only first documented around the early eighteenth century (5; 2).

Land reclamation and tree planting has actively been undertaken in the area from the eighteenth /nineteenth centuries (5; 2).

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

Little Altcar: a small village now subsumed into the south-east urban fringes of Formby.
Ainsdale: although there is no recognisable historic core the area has evolved into a substantial residential suburb, south of Birkdale. (Einulvesdel (1086). After a personal name, may be Old English *aegenwulf* or Old Norse *einulfr*. Ainuluesdale 1190, Aymulvedale 1295 (4).
Ravenmeols (*sandhill* (4)): an old manor at the far western coastal edge of the township, partially washed away by the sea (4). Now part of Raven Meols Hills Nature Reserve.

Maps:

Formby Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRL 1/27).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 90. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1848.

References:

(1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
(2) Adams M., Harthen D. & Cowell R. 2007. *An Archaeological Assessment of the Sefton Coast, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
(3) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
(4) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
(5) Adams M., Harthen D. & Cowell R. 2006. *An Historic Survey of the National Trust Property, Formby*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
(6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
(7) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

Great Crosby

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 320 999
District:	Sefton
Township:	Great Crosby
Geology:	The solid geology consists of Triassic Keuper Sandstone which outcrops around the main settlement area with drift deposits of boulder clay surrounding a further island of Shirdley Hill Sand. Blown sand is present along the coastal strip of the township.
Historic Core:	A well-defined nucleated settlement shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 along Liverpool Road heading northwards into Little Crosby Lane and Cooks Lane; smaller clusters of farmsteads lay to the east and south. As the placename suggests Great Crosby was presumably originally 'a settlement with a cross', St Michael's (1). Great Crosby has since expanded into a mainly urban area with the additional growth of Blundellsands to the west developing from a residential estate created by Colonel Nicholas Blundell during the mid-late nineteenth century (2).
Origin of Name:	Crosebi (1086). Village with a cross. From Old Norse <i>Krossabýr</i> . Crossebeyam 1094, magnam Crossby 1190, Great Crossby 1246, Crosseby Magna 1332, Much and Great Crosby were both used in the sixteenth century (3; 4; 5).
Topography:	The land is generally flat and gently undulating in areas.
History:	Great Crosby was not mentioned in Domesday and was instead a dependent on the royal manor, or demesne, of West Derby (5). In 1625 Charles I sold the manor to Lord Mandeville and others, until 1798 when a trustee of the Blundells of Little Crosby purchased the township from where it descended (5).
Present landmarks:	Merchant Taylors' Grammar School for boys was founded in 1619 by the will of John Harrison, a merchant tailor from London whose father had been born in Great Crosby (5). Another school originally named Mistress's School was founded by a will of Catherine Halsall in 1758 (5). The church of St Luke, with a graveyard, was built in 1854 and has a sundial dating from 1752 in the churchyard (5). It was built near to the site of the old chapel of St Michael's (5) (see below).

A wooden cross and three steps stand over the ancient site of St Michael's well (5) (see below). The cross base has 'St Micheal's (*sic*) Well' inscribed (1).

A windmill (corn) and mill house stand on Moor Lane and are named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850, north-east of the main settlement core. The windmill is a brick tower mill with a datestone of 1813, built by William Blundell (2); now renovated into a private dwelling (6).

'Submerged forest' off the coast of Little and Great Crosby, documented as visible as early as 1796 (5).

A large boulder stone stands within Coronation Park, surrounded by iron railings, discovered underneath Cook's Lane in 1898 probably dating from the last glaciation period during the Ice Age (5; 6).

The main Liverpool-Southport railway line passes to the west of Great Crosby with stations at Waterloo and Blundellsands.

Historic landmarks:

St Michael's church is named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850, stood in the centre of the village by the green (1). It was first documented in the sixteenth century (1). The old chapel was replaced by a tower and brick building in 1774 (5). The building was demolished in 1864 and the tower in 1864 (5).

The small triangular village green is now paved and the ancient well of St Michael covered over (5).

A medieval/post-medieval windmill is believed to have once stood on the site of the present St Peter's and Paul's Church (2). There is documentary evidence of two windmills in Great Crosby although no existing evidence remains (2; 6).

An electric tramway originally connected Great Crosby with the Seaforth terminus of the Liverpool Overhead Railway (5).

Early Activity:

The area north-west of Great Crosby around Sniggery Wood, in the rural fringes of Crosby into Little Crosby, was part of the North West Wetlands Survey in Merseyside during the 1990s which gave a wider understanding of prehistoric settlement and landscape in the area. The survey collated prehistoric palaeo-environmental remains and finds from surviving peat deposits from mosslands adjacent to the River Alt. (7) A polished Neolithic stone axe was found at Altmouth in Blundellsands (2).

A number of Roman coins have been near the vicinity of Crosby shore in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (2).

Placename evidence suggests that townships with the *byr* suffix indicate settlement before Domesday (1).

A couple of so-called 'Celtic' sandstone heads have been discovered in the north-west area of the township (2). These heads are notoriously difficult to date ranging

in date from the Iron Age to more likely the medieval period in this case (2).

A findspot consisting of a medieval fifteenth century seal was found in 1865-66 during the excavation of a culvert in Great Crosby (2).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Marsh/mosslands were enclosed and improved during the seventeenth century (2). The continued importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms, cottages and windmills recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (2; 6). During the nineteenth century Great Crosby expanded, along with Liverpool, due to an influx of merchants settling in the area (6).

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

Waterloo (see separate settlement study)

Maps:

Great Crosby Tithe Map 1844 (LRO DRL 1/17).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (2) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (3) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford.
- (4) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (5) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster*. Volume Three. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (6) 'Crosby in the Past – A Photographic record of the History of Crosby and district' 1977. Booklet produced by Metropolitan Borough of Sefton.
- (7) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

Ince Blundell

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SW
NGR (centred):	Ince Blundell SD 321 034 (north) SD 319 035 (south) SD 323 032 Carr Houses (centred) SD 326 037 Lady Green (centred) SD 316 038
District:	Sefton
Township:	Ince Blundell
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Marl to the north and Triassic Keuper Sandstone to the south. Overlying drift deposits are generally of Shirdley Hill Sand surrounding a central deposit of boulder clay with a small outcrop of sandstone located south-east of Ince Blundell Hall. An area of peat lies between Ince Blundell and Hightown to the west.
Historic Core:	The settlement expanded northwards along Back o' the Town Lane towards Lady Green Lane and Moor Lane to the west, north-west of the hall.
Origin of Name:	Hinne (1086) Meaning island, describing its position in marshy ground and in possession of Blundell family from c.1200. From Welsh <i>Ynys</i> . Ines 1212, Hynis 1243, Ynes thirteenth century, Ins Blundell 1332, Ince 1360; the name may have Celtic origins (1; 2; 3).
Topography:	The township lies generally on flat ground with Ince Blundell Hall and the village located on slightly higher ground (2). The River Alt flows along the north-eastern, northern and western boundaries.
History:	"In 1066 three thegns held Ince for three manors...Early in the twelfth century it was included in the barony of Warrington, and by Pain de Vilars was given to Roger de Stainsby..." (3). The manor came under the ownership of the Blundell family in c.1200 from where ownership descended (3). The township became known as Ince Blundell by the fourteenth century distinguishing it from Ince in Wigan (3). The majority of the township ownership continued down the line of the Blundell family through to the twentieth century. By the sixteenth century the Ballard family had claimed one third of the manor of Ince later selling this portion to the Molyneux family who had also purchased Alt Grange from Thomas Holt (3).
Present landmarks:	A medieval standing cross located on the village green at Ince Blundell is designated as a Scheduled Ancient

Monument. The plinth has been restored and the steps rebuilt. A modern cross shaft and head have been inserted in the base block by Sir Thomas Weld Blundell in c.1876. Possible medieval masons' marks have been cut into the steps and base block in the form of incised crosses and other cryptic marks. (4)

A medieval sandstone wayside cross base, listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, is located on the side of a former road connecting Ince Lane with Hall Lane within the grounds of Ince Blundell Hall. A whitewashed wooden cross has been inserted into the socket hole on recent years. The top surface of the base show traces of three incised crosses. (4)

Lady Green Cross has a possible ancient base with renewed wooden cross; the original location is unknown (5).

The Ince Blundell Estate is an area of emparked land largely eighteenth /nineteenth century in date. The estate consists of a Hall, pantheon, Roman Catholic chapel, agricultural estate buildings, gardens, park, fish pond and landscaped grounds (6) surrounded mainly to the west, south and east by woodland. There are some surviving features of the former late medieval landscape, on which the estate was formed, including fields, trackways, the township mill and earthworks visible from aerial photography (6). The hall was completed c.1750 and the Old Hall dates to around the sixteenth century (5).

The village green has been converted into gardens in which an ancient cross stands (see above). The oval shape of the green is clearly indicated by the arrangement of cottage surrounding it.

A number of post-medieval farmsteads and cottages still survive in and around the village e.g. Lady Green Hall Farm and Orrell Farm (5).

The 'Priest's House', on Moor Lane, is an eighteenth century quasi-circular building named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1849

Historic landmarks:

A mill once stood south of Tower Wood, within the estate; no structure remains. (5)

Formby Old lighthouse (3) once stood on the coastline and was initially built as a landmark c.1719 before becoming a lighthouse in 1834. It was discontinued by 1846, then demolished in 1941 (7; 3).

Early Activity:

The areas within the Alt valley area, north of the township, was part of the North West Wetlands Survey in Merseyside during the 1990s which gave a wider understanding of prehistoric settlement and landscape in the area. The survey collated prehistoric palaeo-environmental remains and finds from surviving peat deposits from mosslands adjacent to the River Alt (8). Numerous scatters of prehistoric flintwork (including Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age) were recovered

during systematic fieldwalking of the area as part of the survey. (8)

Placename evidence suggests early Celtic origins (2). The discovery of dispersed Roman metalwork and aerial photographs, showing three possible farmstead enclosures, indicate the potential for settlement east of the estate (6).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The importance of agriculture from the medieval period is evidenced in the number of farms, cottages and windmills recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (5). A field named as 'Brick Kiln Hey' lay north-east of the village indicating the possible existence of an earlier kiln (5).

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

The outlying hamlets at Carr Houses, north-east of the village, Lady Green to the north-west (9) and Alt Grange to the north.

Maps:

Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/31)
Ince Blundell Tithe Map 1844 (LRO DRL 1/40)
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 91. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1849.
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 90. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1848.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) English Heritage Scheduled Ancient Monument description documentation.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Cowell R.W. 1997. *A Desk-Based Assessment of the Landscape History of the Ince Blundell Hall Estate. National Museums & Galleries on Merseyside*. (now National Museums Liverpool)
- (7) Adams M., Harthen D. & Cowell R. 2007 *An Archaeological Assessment of the Sefton Coast, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
- (8) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

(9) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.

Linacre

Rural Fringe Report:	No
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 342 962
District:	Sefton
Township:	Linacre
Geology:	Linacre is located on an outcrop of Triassic Keuper Sandstone, overlain by drift deposits of blown sand to the west and boulder clay to the east of the township.
Historic Core:	The small settlement core lay at the crossroads of Linacre Lane and Linacre Road where a linear settlement of post-medieval buildings extended from the nineteenth century onwards.
Origin of Name:	Lynaker (1212). Flax field. From Old English <i>lin æcer</i> (1).
Topography:	Low-lying coastal land.
History:	Linacre, although a distinct, small, township, was attached to the manor of Bootle. Before 1290, land was owned by Hugh de Linacre and Robert de Kirkdale. The Molyneux family and Moores of Bank Hall are also documented as having been tenants. In 1667 Isaac Legay of London sold the manor of Linacre to Edward Moore of Bankhall where afterwards, along with Bootle, the earl of Derby took ownership, where it descended (2).
Present landmarks:	<p>The Leeds-Liverpool canal passes through Linacre, as does the main Liverpool-Southport railway line to the west.</p> <p>There has been extensive urban development in the area since 1848.</p>
Historic landmarks:	None identified
Early Activity:	<p>There is currently little evidence for prehistoric, Roman and early-medieval activities in this area.</p> <p>As the name suggests, Linacre was possibly an area where flax was once grown. One ploughland was granted by Roger son of Ravenkil to the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem in the twelfth century (2; 3).</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	None identified
Other potential settlements	

identified within township
which may need further
investigation:

None identified

Maps:

Bootle cum Linacre Tithe Map 1839 (LRO DRL 1/12).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed
1849. Published 1850.

References:

(1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*.
Batsford. London.
(2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria
History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*.
Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
(3) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology
of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in
Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological
Society Vol. II.

Litherland

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 336 975
District:	Sefton
Township:	Litherland
Geology:	The solid geology consists of Triassic Keuper Sandstone with overlying areas of Shirdley Hill Sand drift, and boulder clay further to the south.
Historic Core:	A cluster of buildings and plots bound an open area, with open fields, scattered farmsteads and allotments (Ford Green and Orrell Green) surrounding the core, along present day Field Lane/Sefton Street, heading north-easterly up Sefton Street and around Litherland Park. The eighteenth century settlement pattern has medieval characteristics and the road patterns indicate that linear settlements may have extended out from a small nucleated core (1).
Origin of Name:	Liderlant (1086). A vill which stands at the foot of a small hill. From Old Norse Hindarland, the same name is found in Norway. Litherlande 1202, Lytherlond 1332, Dounelithirlond 1392 (2; 3).
Topography:	Litherland village covers the rising south-west sandstone outcrop, at the centre of the township, overlooking the Rimrose Brook, and between the Mersey estuary and the Alt valley (1).
History:	Litherland was in possession of the Molyneux family of Sefton by c.1100. By the twelfth century the land was divided into one half, Litherland, and two quarters, Ford and Orrell. Several other families held land during the fifteenth century. (4) By 1507 much of the land had been bought by the Moores of Bank Hall. Seaforth (Downlitherland) and Waterloo formed part of Litherland by the nineteenth century (4).
Present landmarks:	Moss Bank cottage is originally shown on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 as an unnamed house and two outbuildings, north-west of the main historic core. The fields associated with this site suggest that the site maybe of medieval origin. There was a public enquiry in April 1983 regarding an application to demolish the building, which was refused. (5) The Leeds-Liverpool canal passes through Litherland.

Historic landmarks:	<p>Documentary sources suggest the possibility of an early church or chapel in Litherland. By the seventeenth century a church is recorded as having been built over two miles from Sefton church (1). A former medieval field named as 'Church Field' suggests the possible site of an early church, although would have been detached from the nucleated village on lower ground to the south (1).</p> <p>Two wayside crosses, Orrell cross and Sterrix Lane cross, are recorded for the township (1).</p> <p>A 'Pinfold', or animal enclosure, had been marked originally on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 as a small square enclosure to the east of the settlement core.</p>
Early Activity:	<p>The discovery of prehistoric palaeoenvironmental remains, around the area of Beach Road, north-west of the settlement, indicates the potential of early archaeological activity in the Rimrose Valley (6; 5).</p>
Significant Post-Med Activity:	<p>The township appears to have been primarily agricultural throughout the medieval period, shown in surviving field systems and field names on later eighteenth and nineteenth century mapping of the area. The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms, cottages and a tithe barn recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (5).</p> <p>Litherland Tannery was established on the Leeds-Liverpool canal, by Field Lane, in the eighteenth century, possibly dating from 1720 and had originally been known as 'the sheepskin yard'. Some of the eighteenth century portions remain in a now altered and enlarged building.</p> <p>An iron and steel smithy dating from 1870 had been located on Bridge Road adjacent to the canal towpath to the north; has since been demolished. (5)</p> <p>Litherland sandstone quarry is named on the 1850 OS map, but is not identified on the estate map of 1769, although an encroachment into Church Field may represent the site of the quarry; now built over by urban development. (5)</p>
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	<p>Seaforth (see separate settlement study)</p>
Maps:	<p>Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/43)</p> <p>1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.</p>
References:	<p>(1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. <i>The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside</i>. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.</p>

- (2) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (3) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (4) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Cowell R.W. and Nicholson S. 1991. *An Archaeological Assessment of the Rimrose Valley, Sefton*. National Museums Liverpool.

Little Crosby

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SW
NGR (centred):	Little Crosby SD 319 014 (north) SD 317 016 (south) SD 320 012 Hightown (centred) SD 310 035
District:	Sefton
Township:	Little Crosby
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Marl to the west and Triassic Keuper Sandstone to the east. The overlying drift deposits are mainly blown sand along the western coastline, peat towards Hightown and small outcrops of sandstone surrounded by boulder clay, bounded by Shirdley Hill Sand to the east.
Historic Core:	The village of Little Crosby is shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 as a linear nucleated settlement consisting of cottages and farm buildings, along Little Crosby Road, situated on a low sandstone ridge, west of Crosby Hall. There has been little expansion from this core with the area remaining predominantly rural.
Origin of Name:	Crosebi (1086). Village with a cross, of which there are six in total. From Old Norse <i>Krossabýr</i> . Crossebeyam 1094, Little Crosseby 1243, Little Croseby 1405. (1; 2; 3)
Topography:	The land is generally flat and low-lying around Little Crosby, rising slightly over sandstone outcrops.
History:	In 1066 Little Crosby was held by Uctred later becoming part of the Widnes fee. In 1212 Richard de Molyneux held a subordinate manor within Little Crosby (3). The manor was eventually passed, through marriage, to John Blundell, a free tenant of Little Crosby (3) where it has since descended. The Blundell family resided at Crosby Hall (4).
Present landmarks:	After 1702, and possibly around the nineteenth century, Crosby Hall, the site of the windmill, the Harkirk and a wayside cross were emparked east of the village (4). In 1507-08 Nicholas Blundell granted Dame Anne Molyneux the hall of Crosby, land, outbuildings and windmill (3). The hall is possibly a moated site although landscaping during the eighteenth century may have obscured any trace of a ditch (4). The church of St Mary's funded by William Blundell in 1847; a burial ground is also attached (3).

A Roman Catholic chapel pre-dating St Mary's is shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850. 'West Lane House' was the first Roman Catholic chapel built in Little Crosby and was in use from around 1719 to 1847 when St Mary's was built (5). The present building is mainly nineteenth century in date and is now a village school (5).

There are three sites of medieval crosses all designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments within Little Crosby. (6)

A medieval wayside cross on the line of the old road from Little Crosby to Sefton and Ormskirk is located at the southern end of the village. Park Cross consists of two steps supporting a socketed block and shaft with a collar but missing a head. The style of chamfered decoration dates the cross to around 1500. (6)

Another medieval wayside cross is located on Alt Road, Hightown. Hightown Cross is now set into the garden wall of Cross House and the medieval plinth has been incorporated into the brickwork. The sandstone base block has been replaced and a modern (c.1880) cross shaft and head have been erected. (6)

Harkirk Cross is believed to mark the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church and burial ground. The cross base has a modern shaft erected in the socket of the single dressed sandstone block. The base block has five incised crosses on top of the stone. The cross stands within a Roman Catholic burial ground formed in 1611. (6)

A hoard of Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Kufic coins dating to AD 915 were found on the site in 1611 (3; 4).

The main Liverpool-Southport railway line passes to the west of Little Crosby with a station at Hightown to the north-west.

Historic landmarks:

The site of a medieval windmill, first mentioned in 1275, at the southern end of the village now within the park possibly represented by a low mound (4); no structure remains (5). A well, now capped over, is located nearby (5).

Crosby Lighthouse once located at Hightown (3) was destroyed probably due to dune movement (5).

A sandstone quarry shown just the north of the village on 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 was in use from the mid-seventeenth century; has since be filled-in with bomb damage from World War II. (5)

A village well, now dry and closed over (3), lay within Crosby village to the north, and was accessible down a large flight of steps (4).

Several boundary stones are shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850.

Early Activity:

The majority of the township, including Hightown, Sniggery Wood, Fleas Moss Wood, Woodham Knoll, was part of the North West Wetlands Survey in Merseyside during the 1990s which gave a wider

understanding of prehistoric settlement and landscape in the area. The survey collated prehistoric palaeoenvironmental remains and finds from surviving peat deposits from mosslands adjacent to the River Alt (7). Numerous scatters of prehistoric flintwork (including Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age) were recovered during systematic fieldwalking of the area as part of the survey. (7)

A Neolithic wooden structure, possibly a trackway, about 1.4 m wide, was traced over a distance of c. 60 m by archaeologists from National Museums Liverpool at Hightown (8).

A remnant of part of a prehistoric submerged forest and peat deposits, c.5000 years old, are still visible at low tide on Hightown beach forming part of a belt of trees across where the Mersey now flows; other examples have been found on Meols foreshore, Wirral (9; 8; 7). The deposits indicate dramatic changes in land and sea levels and consist of pine, birch, oak and willow tree trunks lying within a peaty layer.

Neolithic stone axes have been found from Hightown (8).

The settlement evidence is restricted to the slightly raised dryland areas at Little Crosby and is represented by stone tools of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date (7).

Placename evidence suggests that townships with the *byr* suffix indicate settlement before Domesday (4).

Little Crosby, and Ince Blundell, may have originally been served by an Anglo-Saxon chapel at Harkirk (4).

Harkirk is Anglo-Saxon/Norse for *All hora cyrice* meaning 'hoary or old church' (10). Excavations took place during the early 1950s (10), and again in the 1970s (11), in an attempt to locate early medieval masonry.

Significant Post-Med Activity: The importance of agriculture from the medieval period is evidenced in the number of farms, cottages and windmills recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (5; 9).

Marsh and mosslands were enclosed and improved during the seventeenth century (5) with land used for arable and pasture farming by the eighteenth century (11; 12). Records of marling for soil improvement in Little Crosby date from c.1275, carrying on into the eighteenth century (4). Local clay from Little Crosby was used for local brick-making during the eighteenth century (4; 12). Marl and clay pits in the area were sometimes re-used as fish ponds (12). A sandstone quarry shown just the north of the village on 1st Edition 6" OS map 1850 was in use from the mid-seventeenth century.

Rabbit warrens along the coastline and plantations are shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map 1850.

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

Hightown (Morehouses) – ‘a modern hamlet’ (3)

Maps:

Little Crosby Tithe Map 1844 (LRO DRL 1/18)
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) English Heritage Scheduled Ancient Monument description documentation.
- (7) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.
- (8) Adams M., Harthen D. & Cowell R. 2007 An Archaeological Assessment of the Sefton Coast, Merseyside. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
- (9) ‘Crosby in the Past – A Photographic record of the History of Crosby and district’ 1977. Booklet produced by Metropolitan Borough of Sefton.
- (10) Tyrer F. 1952. *The Harkirk, Little Crosby*. Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. & Cheshire, 104.
- (11) Cowell R.W. and Falkingham G. 1991. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Little Crosby Park, Merseyside; in Advance of Borehole Drilling by Fina Petroleum Development Ltd*. Field Archaeology Section Liverpool Museum.
- (12) Leggett P. 1982. *Landscape History of Little Crosby*. Merseyside County Museums Liverpool Museum (now National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit).

Lunt

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SW / SJ 30 SE
NGR (centred):	SD 348 019
District:	Sefton
Township:	Lunt
Geology:	The solid underlying geology of Lunt comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone overlain generally by boulder clay and alluvial deposits. Areas within the Alt valley contain underlying deposits of peat and blown sand.
Historic Core:	The historic core lies as a small rectangular concentration of buildings around Lunt Lane, Longdale Lane, Lunt Road and Back Lane. There has been little expansion from this settlement core with no significant subsequent built-up areas.
Origin of Name:	du Lund (1251); Lont (1302); Lount (1350). From Old Norse <i>lundr</i> 'grove' or 'small wood'. (1; 2; 3)
Topography:	Lunt lies on relatively flat ground within the River Alt marshy floodplain which flows to the north of the township. Harrison's Brook lies to the east. The landscape has remained rural with large areas to the north-east, central and south-west designated as Forestry Commission land.
History:	Formerly a hamlet of Sefton (1344), Lunt was under the ownership of Richard de Molyneux who by 1212 had given portions of land over to Richard Branch and Robert. Ownership was passed down through descendents of the Branch, Derleigh and Fowler families during the fourteenth century. (3; 4) Richard Johnson of Lunt was one named freeholder in 1600. (3) John Lunt, a 'Papist' held an estate in 1717. (3)
Present landmarks:	The Chestnuts is a well-maintained late Georgian house dating from 1843, on Lunt Road (5) A post-medieval mounting block is located on the east side of Lunt Road, consisting of three sandstone blocks set into the pavement on the west side of the boundary wall. (5) A seventeenth century brown brick Tithe-barn stands on land at Lunt Farm, Lunt Lane, with a datestone of 1693 marking the year of construction. (5) Lunt Farm, originally the home of the Bootle family, is a two storey red brick probably eighteenth century in

date, possibly earlier. Extensions were made to the house in 1936. (5)

Historic landmarks: The Molyneux estate map of 1769 shows the site of a post-medieval windmill to the east of the township, c.300 metres north-west of St Helens well, within 'Mill Hey' field. Yates' map of Lancashire (1786) also depicts a windmill on this site. No extant remains of the building are visible within the field (5).

Early Activity: An area in the north-west portion of the township, was part of the North West Wetlands Survey in Merseyside during the 1990s which gave a wider understanding of prehistoric settlement and landscape in the area. The survey collated prehistoric palaeoenvironmental remains and finds from surviving peat deposits from mosslands adjacent to the River Alt (6). The survey showed a trend for early prehistoric landuse by hunters and gatherers, especially along coastal routes, and the first farmers of the Neolithic period. Woodland clearance by the late Bronze Age gave way to the spread of farmsteads in well drained locations (6). Systematic fieldwalking of areas within Lunt (National Museums Liverpool) has produced two main sites of Mesolithic flint assemblages. Sixty-nine struck pieces were found in an area east of Broad Farm and ninety struck pieces of flint and chert were discovered in the floodplain of the River Alt, east of Homer Green. The terraced slopes around Lunt would potentially be favoured sites during this period. The further discovery of prehistoric sites lie within the waterlogged peat deposits in the Alt valley floor (dating from around 5000 BC) where there would be a high survival rate of organic material (6). Recent geoarchaeological, palaeoenvironmental and archaeological assessments in the area by Oxford Archaeology North and National Museums Liverpool have enhanced understanding of the prehistoric environment (7; 8; 9).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The township was primarily agricultural with dispersed settlement throughout the medieval period, documentary evidence suggesting that arable cultivation had been well-established (4). The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms and cottages (e.g. Rose Farm, Pear Tree Farm, Well Cottage) recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (5).

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

Maps: Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/47).

Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5)
 Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDPR 144/11)
 Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO)
 Lunt Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRL 1/51)
 1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 91. Surveyed 1845-46. Published 1849. (northern half of township)
 1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850. (southern half of township)

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.
- (7) Druce D. 2006. *Lower River Alt Storage Pond Scheme, Merseyside Merseyside – Geoarchaeological Assessment*. Oxford Archaeology North.
- (8) Druce D. 2006. *Lower River Alt Storage Pond Scheme, Merseyside – Palaeoenvironmental Assessment*. Oxford Archaeology North.
- (9) Forestry Commission, Sefton Community Woodland Environmental Appraisal. 2001. Volumes 1 & 2. contribution on the Archaeological Survey by National Museums Liverpool.

Lydiate

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SE
NGR (centred):	St Thomas's Church SD 363 057 Lydiate Hall SD 362 051 Lydiate (north) SD 364 050 (south) SD 366 046
District:	Sefton
Township:	Lydiate
Geology:	The solid geology consists predominately of Triassic Keuper Sandstone to the west and Bunter Sandstone to the east. Drift deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand cover the majority of the township overlain by a subsoil of peat and sandy loam soil.
Historic Core:	Lydiate shows a pattern of dispersed settlement rather than having a main nucleated core probably due to the retention of woodland until the eighteenth century. Three small settlements have been identified as focusing around St Thomas's Church to the north, along Church Lane; around the immediate area of Lydiate Hall, just west of Southport Road, and a generally linear pattern south-east of the hall around Lydiate School, the Scotch Piper Inn and other dwellings, also along Southport Road, north of the canal. These areas have remained largely rural with modern urban expansion occurring largely to the southeast, bounded by the Leeds-Liverpool canal to the west and subsumed into the north-western urban fringes of Maghull.
Origin of Name:	Leiate (1086). Swing-gate. From Old English <i>hildgeat</i> . Liddigate 1202, Lidiat 1212, Lydiate 1225, Lydeyate 1284, Lidgate 1299, Ledeyate 1414, Lidezate 1481 (1; 2; 3).
Topography:	The township is generally flat and low-lying; the highest point, a ridge of Shirdley Hill Sand, is located near the southern boundary (3). The River Alt runs to the west of the township and was liable to flooding in the area. Woodland was present in the north west of the township during the medieval period up until c.1717 (4).
History:	The ancient township of Lydiate was held by Uctred at the time of Domesday. During the early twelfth century Pain de Viliers took ownership before passing the manor to William Gernet. Portions of land descended through the now named de Lydiate family, who granted Cockersand Abbey a portion. By 1276 the manor was divided between various owners; the greater portion

belonging to Alice de Lydiate. During the fourteenth century various disputes over land took place. The main line of the Lydiate family descended through John de Lydiate, the younger son of Sir John Ireland of Hale. (3) Lawrence Ireland came into possession of the manor by 1435 and married Katherine Blundell of Little Crosby. The manor was passed through descendents John Ireland of Lydiate, George Ireland and Lawrence Ireland who by c.1544 exchanged land for Norris lands in Lydiate and Maghull, while also purchasing land from Cockersand Abbey and acquiring Eggargarth in 1546. Lydiate Hall, the chapel, barns, dovehouse and fields were in the possession of the Ireland family by the beginning of the seventeenth century. (3) By the end of the seventeenth century the estate passed from the Ireland family to Charles Anderton through marriage to Margaret Ireland. In 1678 Lydiate was leased to Thomas Lydiate, and old Mrs Ireland continued to live at the hall. After the death of Sir Francis Anderton in 1760, the Lydiate manors and estates descended through his sister Mary, wife of Henry Blundell, and thus passed to the family of Blundell of Ince Blundell. (3)

Present landmarks:

Lydiate Hall, a possible moated site (4), was under ownership by the Ireland family from the sixteenth century onwards (5) who held the Lydiate lordship from early fifteenth century until the seventeenth century. Subsequent owners of the hall were the Andertons of Lostock c.1673–1760 and the Blundell family 1760–1957 (3; 6). From 1673 the hall was tenanted and gradually deteriorated into the early twentieth century (6). It was a complete ruin by the 1940s. Although there is documentary evidence of a manorial holding at Lydiate Hall from the early thirteenth century, the current building was probably not built until the sixteenth century (6). The hall at this time was a quadrangular building with a central courtyard, similar in appearance to Speke Hall (6).

A number of archaeological investigations including a building recording survey, dendrochronology analysis, archaeological excavations (which located part of the Hall's east wing demolished in the eighteenth century and associated postholes) and watching briefs have been carried out at the site (6).

St Catherine's Chapel, a designated Scheduled Monument, dates from the late fifteenth century and was a private domestic chapel to the Ireland family (5). It is speculated that the chapel was erected by Lawrence Ireland before his death in c.1469, as a dedication to his wife Catherine Blundell. The site consists of a ruined chapel and a burial ground surrounded by a rectangular earthen enclosure and a shallow ditch. The chapel, also known as Lydiate Abbey, is stone-built. It is recorded to have once

contained a series of four alabaster reliefs (1420 - 1460), which depicted the scenes of the life of St Catherine adorning the chapel altar; now in Our Lady's Church (6). The burial ground was in use until the late nineteenth century. Archaeological excavations took place at the site in the early 1980s (6).

The Scotch Piper Inn lies to the south of the chapel on Southport Road. It is reputed to be the oldest inn in Lancashire dating back to 1320 and was originally known as the Highland Piper (6). A building recording of the inn, including dendrochronology of twelve timbers giving dates after 1500 (6), took place in the 1980s.

There are seven reputed sites for crosses within Lydiate (3). School Brow Cross base is said to be buried beneath a footpath (3). The remains of Lydiate Hall Cross survive as does the cross at Our Lady's Church.

Our Lady's Church/The Church of St Mary was built by Thomas Blundell in 1854 (3) and contains an alabaster pulpit. A burial ground was opened in 1860 and an ancient sandstone cross is located in the churchyard having been discovered buried in the area (3; 7).

The Leeds-Liverpool canal runs roughly north – south through the centre of the township. A number of bridges survive along this stretch of the canal including the nineteenth century swing bridge on Bell's Lane known as 'Captain Herd's Bridge' on the 1844 Tithe Map and the earlier sandstone Dickinson's Bridge on Pilling Lane (7).

A nineteenth century boatyard consisting of a wooden shed with a corrugated iron roof and cottage stands adjacent to the in-filled dry dock; the rest of the site now part of an industrial estate. Once owned by the Lunt family and stayed in use until the Second World War. (7)

Historic landmarks:

Brick Kiln (post-medieval) adjacent to Lydiate Hall, evidenced through field-name, Kiln Croft (1809). Eggargate watermill was located on the boundary stream with Lydiate and was first recorded in 1276 (4). The mill was rebuilt during the post-medieval period was in use up until the nineteenth century (4; 3). A second brick-built tower mill, Lydiate Mill, is located on the Liverpool-Ormskirk Turnpike Road shown on mapping from 1786 (4).

Lydiate School and Smithy Brow are shown and named on the 1844 Tithe Map.

Several boundary stones are shown on the 1844 Tithe Map and post-medieval boundary ditches (3) within the township.

A sandstone quarry is marked on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1849, north of Lydiate Hall.

Early Activity:

Prehistoric flintwork, dating from late Neolithic/early Bronze Age, have been recovered from on the sandy

ridge on the north-eastern side of the Alt valley (8), north-west of Lydiate Hall Farm.

A findspot of a Mesolithic flint scraper has been discovered in a garden along Southport Road. (7)
Crop marks have been observed north of Church Lane during aerial photography reconnaissance in the area, possibly indicating early settlement, although until further archaeological investigation is taken this remains unclear. (7)

Significant Post-Med Activity: The township was primarily rural with dispersed settlement. The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms and cottages (e.g. Hollands Farm, Brookside Farm, Lydiate House, Firgrove House, Fir Tree House) recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (7). A medieval field system is known to have existed north-east of Cherry Tree Farm. From the mid-eighteenth century the canal was used to transport large quantities of household rubbish, or so-called 'night soil', including broken pottery and glass, which was spread over fields in places such as Lydiate and Melling (4).
Sandstone quarry located on an outcrop, north of Lydiate Hall, had been producing since at least the early eighteenth century (4); named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1849.

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

Eggargarth/Eggargate (n.b. out of county, now part of West Lancashire) – an ancient settlement attached to the north-east boundaries of Lydiate township. It is not mentioned in Domesday, but like Lydiate formed part of the Warrington fee. Henry de Walton granted Cockersand a ridding, or green lane, in Eggargarth. In 1242, Lydiate and Eggargarth were held by William de Lydiate and William de Walton. Eggargarth was held by Gillbert Scarisbrick from the lord of Warrington in 1355, continuing through his family until 1546 when Lawrence Ireland purchased the estate from James Scarisbrick., thus merging with Lydiate estates (3).

Maps:

Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/42).
Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5).
Lydiate: Lands of Henry Blundell 1809 (DDIn 63/95a).
Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDP 144/11).
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO).
Lydiate Tithe Map 1844 (LRO DRL 1/52.)
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 91. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1849.

References:

(1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.

- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- 3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Lewis, J. M. 2000. *The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenorial Evidence and Physical Structure*. British Archaeological Reports. British Series Volume 310. Oxford.
- (6) Lewis J.M et al. 1984-85 *Archaeology in Lydiate*. Journal of Merseyside Archaeological Society, Vol. 6
- (7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (8) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

Maghull

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SE
NGR (centred):	Maghull Chapel SD 375 019 Green Lane SD 369 029 Liverpool Road/Southport Road (north) SD 371 034 (south) SD 373 029
District:	Sefton
Township:	Maghull
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone to western and central areas and Bunter Sandstone to the north, south and east, overlain by an island of drift boulder clay surrounded by Shirdley Hill Sand.
Historic Core:	Maghull shows a pattern of dispersed settlement rather than having a main nucleated core probably due to the retention of woodland until the eighteenth century (1). However, Maghull Chapel and Chapel House Farm may represent an early medieval core (1) along Damfield Lane and Deyes Lane. Other dispersed clusters of buildings were identified from 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1849 along Green Lane to the west and northwards along Liverpool Road and Southport Road.
Origin of Name:	Magele (1086). Where the mayweed grows (2), may be from Old English <i>magō</i> "son" or celtic <i>magos</i> "plain", and Old English <i>halh</i> "corner or nook". Maghele 1190, Mahale 1220, de Maghal 1246, Maghall 1278, Maggenhale 1328, Maghull, Maghell 1353 (2; 3; 4).
Topography:	The township is generally flat and gently undulating. Maghull village lies within low-lying ground, west of the River Alt.
History:	Maghull was held by Uctred in 1066, later forming part of the Widnes fee held by the barons of Halton in Cheshire (4). In 1212 Alan de Halsall became the first of the Halsall family to see the manor descend, along with a portion handed down through the Maghull family from 1240, until the fourteenth century when the Hulme family took ownership (4). By the seventeenth century Henry Hulme sold the manor of Maghull to Sir Richard Molyneux. The Molyneux family had acquired various plots of land within the township during the sixteenth century. The three-quarter portion of the manor of Maghull passed through the Molyneuxes until the end of the eighteenth century (4).

Present landmarks:

The moated site of Maghull Manor House, also known as Carr House and Old Hall, is listed as Scheduled Monument. The Maghull family held ownership of the manor during the fifteenth – eighteenth centuries (5). The site comprises of a slightly raised rectangular island, c.80m by 60m, flanked by a waterlogged moat on the eastern, northern and north-west corner, elsewhere the moat has been in filled. The original building is thought to have been demolished during the late eighteenth century when the present manor house was built to the south-west of the moated site (5). Building foundations, fragments and medieval pottery were recovered from the island after shallow ploughing in the late 1970s (6). A sundial dated 1748 stands in the front lawn of the manor house (4). Maghull Chapel, or Unsworth Chapel, west of St Andrew's, and adjacent to the canal, is the only surviving chapel in the district to retain some thirteenth century elements (1). There have been several phases of alterations to the chapel during the fourteenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (1). An area of decorated medieval wall plaster survives within the building; one of only three examples in Merseyside (1). Part of an arch was removed from the site to an external wall at Maghull Manor.— A number of outbuildings, fields and a tithe barn are shown on Tithe Map of 1840; post-medieval sundial (1748) (4); Chapel House is a seventeenth century farmhouse (4). (6) Three ancient crosses are recorded within Maghull. Woodlands Cross, Clent Farm Cross (removed in 1890) and Back Lane Cross (4). St Andrew's Church was built and consecrated by 1880 (4). The Leeds-Liverpool canal and Liverpool - Preston railway pass through the township. Maghull railway station was built in 1850 (6) and is located on the south-eastern periphery of Maghull. A number of bridges survive along this stretch of the canal including a drawbridge, swing bridge and floodgate (6). At the southern boundaries between Maghull, Aintree and Netherton lies Switch Island which marks the western terminus for both the M57 and M58, also joining with the A59 and Dunning's Bridge Road (A5036); the main northern route out of Merseyside. An area of land at the west of the township is owned by the Forestry Commission.

Historic landmarks:

The 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 shows an area of land named 'Kenions or Kennessee Green', a medieval/post-medieval village green shown on earlier estate maps; now under a residential area with a street named Kennessee Close. (6) A racecourse had been located in Maghull before Aintree became the main destination for Liverpool meetings (4).

	Sandstone quarry located on an outcrop, north of Maghull Village is named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1849; now in-filled and partly redeveloped.
Early Activity:	A findspot consisting of Neolithic/Bronze Age flintwork was recovered during fieldwalking prior to the M58 motorway development in the 1970s, west of Moss Nook Farm. (6)
Significant Post-Med Activity:	The township was primarily rural with dispersed settlement. The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms and cottages (e.g. Green Lane House Farm, The Peel Farm, Molyneux Farm) recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (6). Sandstone quarry located on an outcrop, north of Maghull Village is named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1849; now in-filled and partly redeveloped.
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	None identified
Maps:	Maghull: Estate belonging to William Harper. 1798 (DDFo 22/37). Maghull Tithe Map 1840 (LRO DRL 1/53) 1 st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 91. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1849. 1 st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.
References:	(1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. <i>The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside</i> . Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II. (2) Mills, D. 1976. <i>The Place Names of Lancashire</i> . Batsford. London. (3) Eckwall, E. 1922. <i>The Place names of Lancashire</i> . Chetham Society. Manchester. (4) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. <i>The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three</i> . Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London. (5) Lewis, J. M. 2000. <i>The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenorial Evidence and Physical Structure</i> . British Archaeological Reports. British Series Volume 310. Oxford. (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

Melling

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SE
NGR (centred):	Melling SD 389 002 Waddicar SJ 395 997
District:	Sefton
Township:	Melling
Geology:	The underlying geology consists of Triassic Bunter Sandstone overlain by boulder clay and deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand.
Melling settlement is located	on an outcrop of Bunter Sandstone originally surrounded by marshland, overlooking the floodplain of the River Alt.
Historic Core:	Melling's small historic core was probably centred around the sandstone outcrop at Melling Rocks focusing on St Thomas's Church on Rock Lane, although is not entirely convincing as a nucleated village (1). Instead there appears to be a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads in this area, east of the River Alt, also including Lydiate and Maghull (1). There has been small expansion from the core heading north-eastwards towards the junction of School Lane and Tithebarn Lane. The area remains predominantly rural.
Origin of Name:	Melinge (Domesday 1086). From Old English personal name, <i>Mall</i> , or similar. Mellinges 1194, Molling 1202, Melling 1226 (2).
Topography:	Melling settlement lies on raised outcrop of sandstone east of the River Alt, the most elevated of Sefton's township's (1). Melling Rocks is the highest part of the village and was the site of an ancient chapel and a purported fourteenth century burial ground (1). The surrounding area consists of gently undulating ground with the River Alt flowing through the township to the west.
History:	<p>Placename evidence <i>Mellingas</i> – 'the followers of Mealla' indicates settlement as early as the 6th/7th century AD (3). The ancient township of Melling was first documented in Domesday as being held by Godeve.</p> <p>The settlement is well documented throughout the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries with land ownership mainly under the Melling, Molyneux and Bootle families. Cockersand Abbey owned several grants of land c.1190, draining much of the surrounding mossland for improved cultivated land. During the</p>

Medieval period Birkenhead Priory held some land in Melling. Afterwards, The Molyneux of the Wood held part of this land. On the dissolution of Birkenhead priory Robert Bolton purchased the priory's former estates in Melling, which in turn were acquired by a branch of the Molyneux family who held a seat in Melling in 1567 (4). The Molyneux family continued to hold part of the manor until the end of the eighteenth century, when it was sold to John Foster.

Following the marriage of Frances Molyneux of Melling in about 1753 to Edward Blount of Sodington the couple eventually sold their Lancashire possessions and in 1785 Wood Hall was sold to the Earl of Derby although much of their land in Melling was sold to Thomas Bootle of Melling and Lathom (5; 4).

Present landmarks:

Melling contains three possible moated sites (6). A moat at Wood Hall Farm has been identified on the basis of a field name 'Moat Croft' under the ownership of the Molyneux family of Sefton. A linear ditch and pond may represent fragmentary remains of the medieval moat; fieldwalking has produced a small amount of medieval and early post-medieval material (1). (6)

Traces of two ditches and the recovery of pottery sherds are the only evidence for a moated site at Melling House, a two-storeyed stone-built late sixteenth century building owned at the time by the Bootle family. (6)

Cunscough Hall was amongst the smallest moated enclosures in south-west Lancashire having been created after woodland clearance (4). The site of the original hall (Scheduled Monument) comprises of a slightly raised platform of undisturbed grassland c.25m by 13m, surrounded by a drainage ditch on the north-east and north-western sides (6). Cunscough Hall was the property of the Abbey of Cockersand until the Dissolution, after which it passed through various owners until the seventeenth century when the Tatlock family took possession. (6)

Melling Tithe barn was built in 1826 and has a modern extension using old sandstone (7).

A former school and schoolmaster's house was built in c.1720 and are now named Old School Cottages. The branch of the Molyneux family that also held Mossborough Hall made Wood Hall their principal residence during the fifteenth century (1). Wood Hall is still extant as part of the late seventeenth century Wood Hall Farm and Wood Hall situated on Brewery Lane. Fieldwalking at the site has produced medieval and post-medieval pottery probably being derived from the dispersal of domestic waste. (7)

St Thomas and the Holy Rood/Melling Chapel (re-built in 1834) lies to the south of an early-medieval twelfth century chapel and fourteenth century cemetery. By 1556 there was a priest's house with land (1). A

medieval cross base (Scheduled Monument), fourteenth century, or later in date, is located within the old churchyard of the present Melling Chapel of Ease. Another medieval cross base with a later eighteenth century pillar and sundial set-in are also located at this site, is also classed as a Scheduled Monument. (6) Generally bounded by the M57 and M58 motorways, with Leeds-Liverpool canal flowing west of Melling northwards.

Historic landmarks:

Ancient woodland had been recorded in Domesday stretching from Waddicar, Melling to Woodend, Maghull. There are indications of this woodland in placenames in the local vicinity; Wood Hall Farm, on Brewery Lane (formerly the Hall i' Th' Wood' or 'Hall-in-the-Wood') and in some field names (4). A field named as 'Mill Hey' appears on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 which may have been the earlier site of a windmill. Fieldwalking produced a single sherd of medieval pottery and a spread of sixteenth century but no other remains existed (1). There are numerous post-medieval farmsteads and cottages in the township (7).

Early Activity:

A finds-spot consisting of a single flint blade and waste flake were recovered during fieldwalking at the junction of sandstone and boulder clay just north of Melling House, Melling (7). One struck flint and two pieces of pebble flint possibly Neolithic or Bronze Age in date were collected during fieldwalking in 1977 prior to the construction of the M58 motorway, at the north-western boundary of the township (7). An unusual red sandstone axe (most being made from harder igneous and metamorphic rocks) was found just to the north-east of Rock Lane, Melling (4). Although there is no direct evidence for the Roman period a small scatter of Roman and medieval surface finds, possibly relating to settlement, were recovered during fieldwalking on Melling Mount (1; 7). A metal-detectorist found a Roman coin south-west of New House Farm and a moulded Roman oil-lamp from Wood Hall Farm to the north (7). Unfortunately any associated settlement remains undetected (4). The only other evidence for settlement from this period is a complex series of field systems visible on an infra red air photograph of Melling, which may include several phases of landscape development including a possible native enclosure (8; 4). From about AD 1300 onwards land-use in the Melling area began to change with woodland being cleared and land enclosed and put towards an agricultural use. A probable medieval field system called 'Town Meadow' comprising a series of fields in narrow strips existed in the township (4).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The area of Melling remained almost wholly agricultural until the opening of the Leeds-Liverpool canal in the late eighteenth century. The canal was used locally by the Midland Pottery in Melling for the transportation of Devon clay from the docks at Liverpool to Melling. The pottery, built in 1877, consisted of three kilns, warehouses, sheds and six cottages. There was a huge demand for stoneware jam and marmalade jars produced especially at the nearby Hartley's jam works in Aintree. The site was destroyed by fire in 1928. (3) Two clay pits identified on mid-late nineteenth century OS mapping are perhaps associated with the Melling stoneware pottery works, in the vicinity of Tomlinson's Farm and Guile House (4).

From the mid-eighteenth century the canal was also used to transport large quantities of household rubbish, or so-called 'night soil', including broken pottery and glass, which was spread over fields in places such as Melling and Lydiate (1).

Melling sandstone quarry located on the west side of Rock Lane, opposite the church, is named on both Melling Tithe (1840) and 1st Edition 6" OS (1850) maps. The quarry is said to have produced good grindstones (5) presumably for sharpening implements, rather than corn grinding, in the early eighteenth century (1).

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

Waddicar on the urban/rural fringes east of Melling settlement, on the border with Kirkby, now a residential area.

Maps:

Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/44).
Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5).
Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDPR 144/11).
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO).
Melling cum Cunsough Tithe Map 1840 (LRO DRL 1/54).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

(1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
(2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
(3) Newton E.E. 1977. *Melling with Cunsough*. Melling Parish Council
(4) Harthen D. and Adams M. 2006. *An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of Land at Switch Island, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.

- (5) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (6) English Heritage Scheduled Monument description documentation.
- (7) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (8) Philpott, R. A. 1991. *Merseyside in the Roman Period*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society.

Netherton

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SE / SJ 39 NE
NGR (centred):	Netherton SD 395 001 Old Roan SJ 370 992
District:	Sefton
Township:	Netherton
Geology:	The solid geology is split with Triassic Keuper Sandstone to the west and Triassic Bunter Sandstone to the east. The overlying drift deposits are quite mixed in this area and consist mainly of Shirdley Hill Sand to the south with areas of boulder clay and alluvial deposits to the north.
Historic Core:	The historic core for Netherton is a cluster of buildings and farmsteads centred around medieval Netherton Green in the north of the township, north of the canal along Copy Lane. The green is enclosed by a modern church, nineteenth /twentieth housing estates and a possible eighteenth century building at the north-east corner, adjacent to the bounding Northern Perimeter Road (A5207).
Origin of Name:	Netherton 1576. The lower farmstead. From Old English <i>neodēra tūn</i> (1).
Topography:	The township lies on low land near the River Alt.
History:	Netherton was primarily agricultural through the medieval period, documentary evidence suggesting that arable cultivation had been well-established (2). Formerly a hamlet of Sefton, Netherton was first documented under the ownership of Richard de Molyneux of Sefton who in 1318 granted ownership of certain lands and a water-mill 'in Netherton' to his son Peter (3; 2). Simon de Molyneux of Netherton settled here in 1373. Land was released in 1433-34 by William and Agnes Fairfellow to Sir Richard Molyneux (3).
Present landmarks:	St Bennet's Catholic Church was opened in 1793 after having land granted by the earl of Sefton (3; 4). Priesthouse and school also associated with the church (4). Manor House lies on the west side of Chapel Lane and dates from the eighteenth century with later alterations. The 2½ storey brown brick house is still in occupation within a working farm. (4). The Leeds-Liverpool canal passes through Netherton, as does the Liverpool-Ormskirk railway line to the east.

At the extreme north-east urban/rural fringe of Netherton, bounded by Maghull, Melling and Aintree, lies Switch Island which marks the western terminus for both the M57 and M58 also joining with Dunning's Bridge Road (A5036) and the A59; the main northern route out of Merseyside.

Historic landmarks:	Stand or New Park was created on mossland in the south of the township during the early seventeenth century, but had decayed by 1770. However, the boundary for the park remained on Yates (1786), Greenwood (1818) and Hennes (1830) maps of Lancashire. The Tithe Map for Netherton showed the area having been enclosed by 1845 with a small cluster of buildings remaining but was still referred to as Stand Park (3; 2). The area is now part of Bootle golf course bounded by schools and modern industrial development adjacent to Dunning's Bridge Road. A field named as 'Kiln Croft' lay on the eastern boundary of the township but has since been destroyed during motorway construction (4).
Early Activity:	There is currently little evidence for the prehistoric, Roman and early-medieval periods in this area.
Significant Post-Med Activity:	The township was primarily rural with dispersed settlement. The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms and cottages (e.g. Netherton Hall, Bullin's Farm, Parkside Farm, Copy Farm and Deerbarn Farm) recorded as having stood in the medieval and post-medieval periods (4). Many of these sites are now occupied by modern housing or industrial estates.
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	Old Roan: shown on the Molyneux Estate Map of 1769 as a small cluster of dwellings adjacent to a main crossroad which on the 1 st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 has become a separate linear settlement at the eastern end of Copy Lane, south-east of Copy Farm and Manor Bridge House; marked now by Old Roan train station, with the A59 passing straight through; named on Yates' map (1786).
Maps:	Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/47). Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5). Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDPR 144/11). Hennes G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO). Netherton Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRL 1/55). 1 st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

Orrell

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 348 970
District:	Sefton
Township:	Orrell
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone overlain with drift deposits of Shirdley Hill Sand.
Historic Core:	The settlement core lay at the crossroad from the eighteenth century onwards (1), along Orrell Road and Kirkstone Road South.
Origin of Name:	Orhul (1299). Meaning ore hill, although there is no evidence for ore-mining in this area. From Old English <i>ōra</i> 'bank'. Orell 1347, Orrell 1547 (2).
Topography:	Orrell is situated on an area of high ground, c.30 metres, one of the highest townships in Sefton (3). Mossland lies to the east of the township.
History:	Orrell and Ford were originally attached to the ancient township of Litherland (3) and were held by the Molyneux family of Sefton c.1100 (1). Named as a 'vill' of Litherland c.1310, then as a hamlet in 1345 (3). In 1905, Orrell became part of the borough of Bootle (3).
Present landmarks:	The Leeds-Liverpool canal runs through the western side of the township. Bootle cemetery chapel opened in June 1915 (4).
Historic landmarks:	The site of an ancient cross pedestal (3) had been located on the Litherland/Orrell boundary, c.2½ miles south-west of Sefton Church. Although no trace of the base has been found during field investigations, the Molyneux estate map of 1769 has 'Cross Hey Field' named and the 1 st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 shows a boundary stone.
A post-medieval windmill had been sited on the highest point in this part of the township, a few metres south of Mill Cottage. (4)	
Early Activity:	A spot-find of three Roman coins has previously been located between Fernhill Road and Windsor Road (4).
Significant Post-Med Activity:	There are numerous post-medieval farmsteads (Orrell Lodge, Watton's House, Orrell Hill) and associated dwellings in the township (4).

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

None identified

Maps:

Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/30).
Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5).
Greenwood 1818 Map of Lancashire (LRO DDPR 144/11).
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

(1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
(2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
(3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
(4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

Seaforth

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	No
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 329 968
District:	Sefton
Township:	Litherland
Geology:	The solid geology consists of Triassic Bunter Sandstone. Historically sand dunes would have dominated but the area was extensively developed for housing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Inland of the sand dune belt is a complex of wetland deposits and sandstone ridges. (1)
Historic Core:	The historic core developed from a cluster of nineteenth century housing and the church of St Thomas enclosing Seaforth House and grounds to the west, south and east, along present day Crosby Road South and heading eastwards, Princess Way. The surrounding hinterland remained largely rural on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850.
Origin of Name:	Seaforth first appears as a place-name in the nineteenth century, when Seaforth House, the home of Sir John Gladstone MP for Liverpool, was erected in Litherland (1). 'Gladstone gave the house its name when he and his wife moved there in 1813 because his wife was a member of the MacKenzie clan whose head at that time was Lord Seaforth' (2). Seaforth Township was formed in 1894 from Litherland, and joined with Waterloo to form an urban district (3).
Topography:	Relatively flat coastal area adjacent to the mouth of the Mersey Estuary where it enters Liverpool Bay.
History:	During the expansion of Liverpool in the nineteenth century merchants came to reside in sea resorts such as Seaforth, Waterloo and Great Crosby and therefore became heavily populated residential areas with new schools and churches. (4) Seaforth township was formed in 1894 from Litherland, and joined with Waterloo to form an urban district. (3)
Present Landmarks:	Seaforth House was used as a convent in the 1890s and by the 1920s had become an 'Institute for Mental Defectives' (1). St Thomas Church was founded partly by John Gladstone in 1815 (4). The Royal Seaforth Dock was opened in 1972 and the Gladstone Dock constructed 1908-1927 (1).

Seaforth Nature Reserve and marine lake are shown on modern day mapping of the area.

Historic Landmarks:

‘Seaforth Hall was demolished in 1924 for the extension of Gladstone Dock. It was a Greek style mansion designed by Liverpool architect and historian Sir James Picton, owned by James Muspratt the ‘father’ of the alkali industry in Lancashire. Dickens, Sheridan, Knowles and Macready were all visitors there.’ (1)
‘Seafield House was originally the home of shipping merchant William James Fernie until April 1880 when he and others formed the International Marine Hydro Company, and the house and its six-storey northern wing were converted into a luxurious, 250 bedroomed hotel, within 10 acres of grounds. There was a grand opening by the Earl of Lathom on September 25th 1882. (1) It was hoped to entice overnight transatlantic passengers but failed due to inadequate transport from docks and became known as ‘Ferne’s Folly’. From 1884 the building was used as a convent school and then a mental home. The Suffragettes set fire to it in 1913 causing great damage. From 1941 to 1947 it was a naval hospital, used during the Battle of the Atlantic and in 1950 the Inland Revenue took it over. It was finally demolished in 1967 when the Royal Seaforth Docks’ project began.’ (1)
The original Seaforth battery was demolished when Gladstone Dock was built (5).
The original Christ Church in Waterloo was built in 1840 before being demolished in 1899 and re-built at the turn of the twentieth century (4).
The Overhead Railway, or ‘Docker’s Umbrella’, was opened to the public in 1893 and Seaforth was the northern terminus with electric trams continuing the route up to Great Crosby (4; 1).

Early Activity:

There is currently little evidence of prehistoric settlement in the area although previous work within the region suggests that it potentially contains evidence relating to the early post-glacial landscape and environment of Liverpool Bay prior to the rise in sea-level which resulted in the creation of the modern coast line at c. 6000 BP. (1)
There is no evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon settlement within Seaforth as this is likely to be a result of both the difficulty in detecting these sites in the region and the rapid development of the area for docks and housing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (1)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Before the mid-nineteenth century the area was essentially a rural, agricultural landscape.

Other potential settlements identified within township

which may need further investigation:

None identified

Maps:

1st Edition OS 6" Lancashire Sheet 99, published 1850 (surveyed 1849)

References:

- (1) Adams M. & Ahmad C. 2005. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Proposed Seaforth Triangle River Berth Development, Liverpool, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
- (2) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) 'Crosby in the Past – A Photographic record of the History of Crosby and district' 1977. Booklet produced by Metropolitan Borough of Sefton.
- (5) Stammers M. 2006. *Crosby Curiosities*. Tempus.

Sefton

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SW
NGR (centred):	St Helens Church SD 356 012 Sefton Town SD 349 003 Buckley Hill SJ 345 997 Windles Green SD 339 003
District:	Sefton
Township:	Sefton
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone overlain by a drift deposits of boulder clay and sand, and by alluvial deposits between the village and the River Alt.
Historic Core:	The original medieval historic core of Sefton lies around the Church of St Helens on Brickwall Lane. The Molyneux family brought great prosperity to the area and it was around the fifteenth century that the hamlet of Sefton Town evolved at the crossroads, at the highest point of the township, further southwards along Brickwall Lane (1). Buckley Hill and Windles Green are further settlements which evolved around the township bounds (2). However, the area began to decline with the subsequent move of the Molyneux family to Croxteth (1). A small nucleated settlement of several named buildings appears on the OS map of 1850 including St Helen's Church and the site of Sefton Old Hall, presently still in existence.
Origin of Name:	Sextone (1086). Land where rushes grows. From Old Norse <i>Sef</i> and Old English <i>tūn</i> . Sefftun 1222, Ceffton 1236, Seffton 1322, Sephton common during the seventeenth century (3; 4; 5).
Topography:	The ground surface is generally low-lying, sloping gently to the current course of the River Alt to the north-east. Until modern drainage systems were introduced the area was liable to flooding from the river. The hamlet of Sefton Town lies on higher ground to the south-west.
History:	Named as <i>Sextone</i> in the Domesday survey, the manor of Sefton was granted to Roger de Poitou in 1100 to the ancestor of Richard de Molyneux (1212). The Molyneux family had continued ownership (later the Earls of Sefton) from the twelfth century until 1972 when the last Earl died. (5) The family were resident at the nearby Sefton Hall, a moated site (Scheduled Monument, see

below), until 1702 when they relocated to Croxteth Hall (6).

Present landmarks:

(Old) Sefton Hall and rectory lay opposite St Helen's Church, to the south, and was the seat of the Molyneux family from c.1372 until 1702 when they moved to Croxteth Hall. The moated site is a designated Scheduled Monument, and was one of the largest in the district (2); the hall having been demolished in the early eighteenth century. The location of the moat is still visible as a large raised island surrounded on all sides by a partially waterlogged moat, flanked by an external bank (7). There are several which lie within the boundaries of the scheduled site including a bowling green (first recorded in 1717), post-medieval outbuildings, a tithe barn, chapel and The Old Orchard house. Archaeological excavations took place during the late 1956-61 by Merchant Taylors' School Archaeological Society. (8; 9)

Old Hall Farmhouse, formerly Sefton Hall Home Farm. The barn is a seventeenth century brown brick building (similar to the tithe barn at Lunt) with a portion of the original building converted into a farmhouse during the mid-nineteenth century.

Gate piers and wall to the Old Rectory and rectory orchard.

1 and 2 Mill Cottages, Bridge Lane/Sefton Mill Lane and 1 and 2 Mill Houses, Sefton Mill Lane are part of a group of eighteenth century buildings surrounding the church. (10)

Punch Bowl Inn, Lunt Road has been much altered from its original early nineteenth century appearance. The Grange, Brickwall Green, group of seventeenth century buildings with later additions. The outbuildings were formerly used as a brewery. (10)

Edge Farm, a moated site (although not scheduled), lies within the former fourteenth century manor of Edge. The estate descended through the Molyneux family until 1461 when the Osbaldestons of Osbaldeston took ownership before selling the estate back to the Molyneux's in 1589 (5). The farmhouse incorporates seventeenth and nineteenth century elements within a moated site. A small cruck-framed barn was demolished in the 1970s (2).

St Helens Church was also associated with the Molyneux family built around 1535-40. The spire dates to the fourteenth century. (10)

The Leeds-Liverpool canal passes through the southern part of the township.

Historic landmarks:

Sefton Corn Mill was built in c.1595 and had been demolished by the early 1940s with the mill race filled in. The Molyneux estate map of 1769 shows the location of the mill, millrace, by-pass channel, tailrace and an adjacent building, north of Old Sefton Hall. The

mill complex evolved through the nineteenth century until 1940 when the mill burnt down and was then re-built, powered by an electric motor; the mill buildings were demolished by 1983. An archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out in 2004 in order to locate and record foundations of the earlier mill. (6)

The site between St Helens Well, north of the rectory, and the boundary of Lunt Road is 'Glebe' land, farming land with a traditional connection with the Church of St Helen. (10)

Early Activity:

There are no known prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity of the settlements cores. Two large fragments of Roman-British pottery were excavated at Sefton Hall moated site (6).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The River Alt was diverted to form a mill race providing water to power Sefton Mill towards the very end of the sixteenth century (6).

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

Sefton Town
Buckley Hill (Orchard Farmhouse; Buckley Hill medieval stone cross base)
Windles Green (medieval/post-medieval windmill at Tan House Farm)

Maps:

Sefton Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRL 1/72)
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Barnett B. 1980. *Sefton Village – Village Plan Report*. Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council.
- (2) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.(3)
- (3) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (4) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (5) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (6) Towle A. 2004. *Interim Statement on Phase 1 of an Archaeological Evaluation at Sefton Mill*. Gifford and Partners Ltd.
- (7) English Heritage Scheduled Monument description documentation.
- (8) Lewis, J. M. 1978. *Sefton Old Hall, Merseyside, Excavations 1956-61*. Journal of Merseyside Archaeological Society. Vol. 2.
- (9) Lewis, J. M. 2000. *The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenorial Evidence and*

Physical Structure. British Archaeological Reports.
British Series Volume 310. Oxford.
(10) Merseyside Historic Environment Record
documentation.

Southport

Rural Fringe Report:	No
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 31 NW / SJ 31 NE
NGR (centred):	Southport SD 337 174 (north) SD 342 178 (south) SD 329 166 Little London (centred) SD 348 168
District:	Sefton
Township:	North Meols
Geology:	The area overlies a mix of drift deposits consisting of blown sand and estuarine alluvium and silts, over a solid deposit of Triassic Keuper Marl.
Historic Core:	Southport expanded from a large urban linear settlement along Lord Street, overlooking the coast.
Origin of Name:	The settlement name Southport was christened in 1798, perhaps after the local name South Hawes or in relation to the 'north port' of Preston (1). The township name North Meols is from: Otegrimele (1086). This is a corruption of a scandinavian personal name, possibly Old Norse <i>Audgrimr</i> . Nor Muleis 1229, Northmeles 1229, Molis 1242 (2).
Topography:	Southport is located on relatively flat, low-lying land, bounded by the sea to the north-west with vast sandbanks extending out into the Ribble estuary. Originally undulating sand dunes would have extended up from the Sefton coastline (3).
History:	The Domesday survey of 1086 records 'Otegrimele', or North Meols, as five manors held by five thanes, included in the West Derby Hundred (3). Ownership was then divided between St Werburgh's Abbey at Chester and various earls and dukes of Lancaster during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (3). Robert de Cowdray took part possession in 1213 passing down through descendents (3). Alan de Meols held a quarter of the manor which later passed over to William de Cowdray who became lord of the whole manor by 1343 (3). The manor would eventually pass through several families including the Aughtons in 1380, the Bold and Kitchen families (through marriage) by the mid-sixteenth century, the Heskeths, (also through marriage) by the seventeenth century and the Fleetwoods during the nineteenth century (3). Originally a small fishing village (4), Southport gradually developed into a seaside resort (3) by the beginning of the nineteenth century. Hotels soon began to be constructed to cater for the demand in accommodation

(3). Lord Street developed in the 1829s by the Bold-Houghton and Fleetwood-Hesketh families (4). The Promenade, originally a form of coastal protection, was laid out on former sand dunes in 1834 (3) along with building plots overlooking the beach (4). The town hall was erected in 1852 and Southport Pier built in 1860 (3). Recreation grounds, library, art gallery, public park and lake (1887), King's Gardens (1913) and South Marine Gardens are among some of the historic buildings and features within the original settlement core of Southport. The main Liverpool-Southport railway line was fully operational by 1851 aiding the growth of the town (3).

Present landmarks:

Southport Pier, Lord Street (and various nineteenth /twentieth century buildings including the town hall), King's Gardens and South Marine Gardens, Marine Lake, Southport Municipal Golf Course, Hesketh Golf Club, Victoria Park, Princes Park, miniature railway. A series of post-medieval cottages remain in and around the town (5).

Historic landmarks:

The site of Shore Cross lies south-east of the bandstand in Victoria Park (5). Lord Street railway station was opened in 1884 then closed in 1952 becoming the main bus depot (5) in Southport. The train shed was demolished (5).

Early Activity:

During the 1950s and 1970s studies were carried out on the stratigraphic sequences of the coastal belt of lowland mosses between Liverpool and Southport (6). The origin of the dunes along Sefton's coast can probably be traced as far back as 8500 BP. The main early phases of dune building appear to have occurred at 4600-4000 BP, with intermittent phases of activity throughout the Prehistoric period. Despite these early origins, most of the present dune system probably originated in the seventeenth century (7). Palaeoenvironmental remains have been collected and studied from Blowick Moss, east of Southport town (5). In 1871, 'during excavations at Crowlands for new gasworks, a number of elk antlers and bones of extinct animals were found' over three metres below the surface (8). A large perforated Bronze Age stone axe was found in the Southport district, however the exact location of discovery is unknown and was purchased by Preston Museum in 1933 (5). A Neolithic flint was discovered at Pitts House Farm in 1969 and presented to Rufford Old Hall (5). Prehistoric finds have been also been discovered at Martin Mere to the east (5). Evidence for Roman activity along the Sefton coast is limited (7).

Significant Post-Med Activity: Originally a small fishing village (4) which developed into a popular seaside resort during the nineteenth century. From 1809 onwards a series of embankments were created in North Meols in order to protect and maintain the coast and reclaim the coastal marshes (9). Agriculturally North Meols (modern Southport) had little arable land due to the coastal location whereby sandy, wetlands were more suited to grazing (6).

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

Little London, east of Southport

Maps:

1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 75. Surveyed 1845-6. Published 1848.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England – King's Gardens and South Marine Gardens, Southport, Merseyside.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.
- (7) Adams M., Harthen D. & Cowell R. 2007. *An Archaeological Assessment of the Sefton Coast, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
- (8) Bland E. 1903 *Annals of Southport*. 187.
- (9) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.

Thornton

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 30 SW
NGR (centred):	Thornton SD 337 009 (north) SD 340 011 (south) SD 335 007 Homer's Green (north) SD 343 025 (south) SD 340 022)
District:	Sefton
Township:	Thornton
Geology:	The solid geology comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone overlain by a drift deposits of boulder clay and sand, and by alluvial deposits between the village and the River Alt (3).
Historic Core:	The historic core of Thornton lies on a low sandstone outcrop to the south of the township and is now part of the far north-eastern rural fringes of Crosby. The settlement runs along a well-defined nucleated cluster of farmsteads and cottages shown on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850 along Holgate to the north and Water Street to the south, spreading westwards/eastwards along Green Lane and Lydiate Lane.
Origin of Name:	Torentun (1086). Farmstead where thorns grow. From Old English <i>þorn tūn</i> . Thorinton 1212, Thorneton 1246, Thornton 1246 (1; 2).
Topography:	The township lies on relatively flat, low-lying land, susceptible to flooding from the River Alt to the north. Rimrose Brook and valley lie to the south of the township.
History:	Thornton was held by Ascha in 1066 before being divided, along with Ince Blundell, to the barony of Warrington. Pain de Vilers, lord of Warrington, then granted Robert de Molyneux of Sefton and Eawin manors there. The Sefton portion was handed down from 1212 eventually to the de Thornton family. The Warrington ownership passed to a family who also assumed the Thornton surname. By the beginning of the sixteenth century various families held portions of the manor of Thornton. In 1597, the lord of Warrington sold his manor to Sir Richard Molyneux. By 1773 all the manors of Thornton came under the possession of the first earl of Sefton from where is descended. (3)
Present landmarks:	There are two medieval cross sites which lie in Thornton both designated as Scheduled Monuments. (4) A standing cross at the junction of Green Lane and

Water Street consists of a three-stepped plinth and cross base on the site of the former village green. The original cross shaft was replaced by a sundial during the seventeenth century. Named as 'cross' on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1848. Broom's Cross, a wayside cross, is located on Holgate, near Back Lane, north-east of Orchard House. The socket has a modern polished granite cross and plaque giving a probable date for the original as AD 1300 and may have marked the limits of the medieval village. (4; 5)

Cast iron stocks also stand adjacent to the aforementioned cross (5; 4). Both monuments stand on the former site of medieval Thornton Village Green. The site, now part of a residential area, was named on the Molyneux estate map of 1769 as 'Green Hey' and 'Green Croft'.

Historic landmarks:

A medieval windmill was thought to have been located at Tan House Farm, now in Sefton township due to estate boundary changes (6), south-east of the village in Windles Green. Thornton cemetery to the north-east of the settlement core covers an area where known medieval field systems previously existed.

At the north-east limits of the village is the probable site of a kiln based on fieldname evidence 'Little Kiln Hey' and 'Great Kiln Hey'; no surface evidence for kiln survives (5).

A medieval/post-medieval boundary stone shown on the Molyneux estate map of 1769, north of Green Lane, does not appear on the later Tithe map of 1845.

Early Activity:

The area north and north-east of Homer Green, in the northern portion of the township, was part of the North West Wetlands Survey in Merseyside during the 1990s which gave a wider understanding of prehistoric settlement and landscape in the area. The survey collated prehistoric palaeoenvironmental remains and finds from surviving peat deposits from mosslands adjacent to the River Alt (7). A findspot consisting of seven Mesolithic struck flints were found on an east-facing terraced slope of the Alt valley. Another single findspot of a single flint flake was recovered from peat in the flood plain of the Alt (7; 5).

Significant Post-Med Activity: The township appears to have been primarily agricultural throughout the medieval period, shown in surviving field systems and field names on later eighteenth and nineteenth century mapping of the area. The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms (e.g. Orchard House Farm, Elm Farm and Lydiate Farm) and cottages recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (5). The village also included shops and inns (5).

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

The hamlet named as Homers Green, formerly known as Hulmore (3) or Houlmore (6), is shown as a linear spread of dwellings and farmsteads to the north-east of Thornton, on the estate map of 1769. The hamlet still comprises of a small group of farmsteads adjacent to 'Common Croft' field (6). Nearby Homer Green Farm may have been a moated site due to its location on a raised platform enclosed by narrow ditches and possibly represents the barony of Warrington's medieval estate in Thornton (7; 8). Fieldwalking in land surrounding the farm house has produced surface finds dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. Other well-established post-medieval farms, cottages and crofts lie in the immediate vicinity.

Maps:

Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/54).
Thornton Tithe Map 1845 (LRO DRL 1/79).
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) English Heritage Scheduled Monument description documentation.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (7) Cowell R.W. and Innes J.B. 1994. *North West Wetlands Survey 1: The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside/Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.
- (8) Lewis, J. M. 2000. The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenorial Evidence and Physical Structure. British Archaeological Reports. British Series Volume 310. Oxford.

Waterloo

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	No
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 39 NW
NGR (centred):	SJ 317 978 (north) SJ 314 982 (south) SJ 320 975
District:	Sefton
Township:	Great Crosby
Geology:	The solid geology consists of Triassic Keuper Sandstone. Historically sand dunes would have dominated but the area was extensively developed for housing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Inland of the sand dune belt is a complex of wetland deposits and sandstone ridges. (1)
Historic Core:	The historic core developed during the nineteenth century from essentially a nucleated linear settlement of merchant housing and cottages, along Marine Crescent, East Street and South Street, overlooking the coastline. The surrounding hinterland remained largely rural on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850.
Origin of Name:	Waterloo was named from the Royal Waterloo Hotel situated on the sea front which had been founded in 1815 and named after the battle. The hotel name was eventually shortened to the Royal Hotel. (2)
Topography:	Relatively flat coastal area adjacent to the mouth of the Mersey Estuary where it enters Liverpool Bay.
History:	During the expansion of Liverpool in the nineteenth century merchants came to reside in sea resorts such as Seaforth, Waterloo and Great Crosby and therefore became heavily populated residential areas with new schools and churches. (3) Seaforth township was formed in 1894 from Litherland, and joined with Waterloo to form an urban district. (4)
Present Landmarks:	The Liver Inn stands on the corner of South Road and Crosby Road North, east of Waterloo railway station; late Georgian with alterations (5; 3) and is named on the 1st Edition 6" OS map of 1850. Town Hall on Great George's Road built in 1862 (6). The main Liverpool-Southport railway line passes through Waterloo with a named railway station.
Historic Landmarks:	None identified
Early Activity:	There is currently little evidence of prehistoric settlement in the area although previous work within the

region suggests that it potentially contains evidence relating to the early post-glacial landscape and environment of Liverpool Bay prior to the rise in sea-level which resulted in the creation of the modern coast line at c. 6000 BP. (1)

There is no evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon settlement within Waterloo as this is likely to be a result of both the difficulty in detecting these sites in the region and the rapid development of the area for docks and housing in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (1)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Establishment of a seaside resort at Waterloo during the nineteenth century aided by the opening of the main Liverpool-Southport railway in 1851 and Royal Waterloo Hotel (7). Before the mid-nineteenth century the area was essentially a rural, agricultural landscape.

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

None identified

Maps:

1st Edition OS 6" Lancashire Sheet 99, published 1850 (surveyed 1849)

References:

- (1) Adams M. & Ahmad C. 2005. *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Proposed Seaforth Triangle River Berth Development, Liverpool, Merseyside*. National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit.
- (2) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (3) 'Crosby in the Past – A Photographic record of the History of Crosby and district' 1977. Booklet produced by Metropolitan Borough of Sefton.
- (4) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation
- (6) Pollard R. & Pevsner N. 2006. *The Buildings of England –Lancashire: Liverpool and the South-West*. Yale University Press.
- (7) Stammers M. 2006. *Crosby Curiosities*. Tempus.

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 st 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 st Edition 6" OS map sheet Lancashire or Cheshire)
<i>Maps:</i>	1 st 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/Freeand – ‘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 and 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.

Seignior – ‘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.

Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project
Museum of Liverpool
Pier Head
Liverpool L3 1DG

© Trustees of National Museums Liverpool and English Heritage 2011