



Cheshire's State of the Environment **Report**

Contents



	Page
Introduction	1
Air Quality	2
Biodiversity	4
Eco Audit	6
Energy & Climate	8
Food & Farming	10
Land Use	14
Local Heritage & Distinctiveness	16
Transport	18
Waste	20
Water	22
Places to Visit	24
Useful Organisations	26
County Council Contacts	27

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Introduction

The State of the Environment project was originally initiated in 1990 to gather information on the condition of Cheshire's natural and built environment. A number of detailed technical reports as well as a summary were produced over a period of three years. Ten years on, the project has been revisited and this summary report produced with new data to coincide with the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. A range of information has been collected about Cheshire so that the changes in our surroundings can be identified.

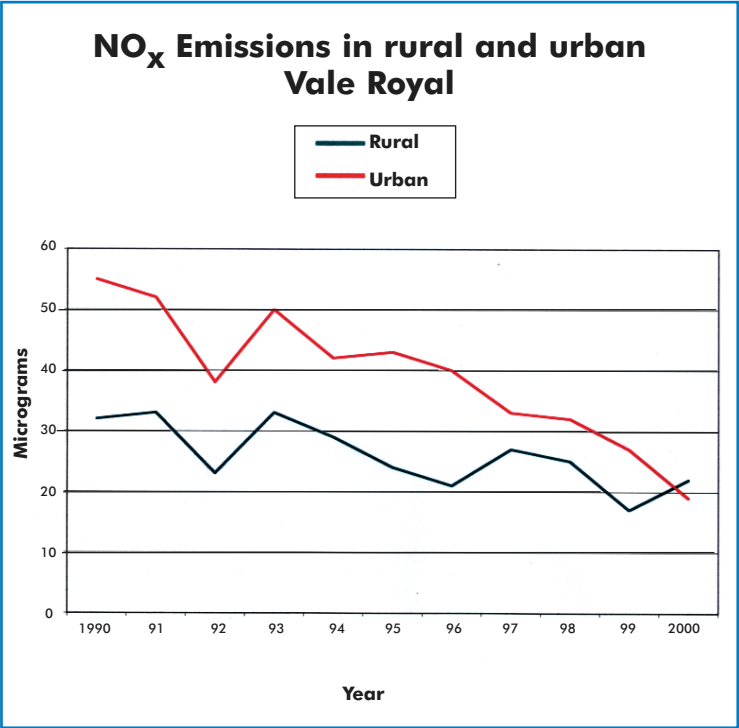
The pages in this report contain a summary of the information gathered. It is presented alphabetically under different themes, such as land use, water and biodiversity. At the back of the booklet there are listings of places to visit and organisations to contact for more information.

If you would like to know more about the environment in Cheshire, or if you would like a copy of the original State of the Environment summary please visit our website at www.sustainablecheshire.org.uk, telephone the Environmental Co-ordinator at Cheshire County Council on 01244 603125 or email burrowm@cheshire.gov.uk

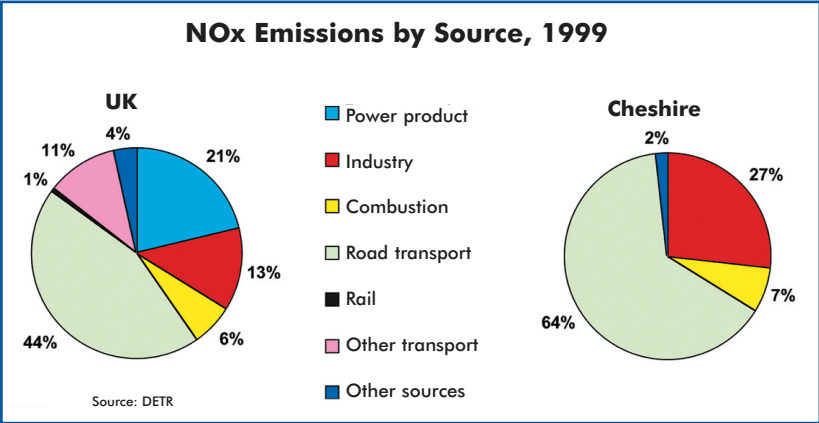
Air Quality

Over the last ten years, the number of sites monitoring air quality in Cheshire have increased. These measure the local levels of Nitrogen Dioxides (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Particulates, Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Heavily trafficked and congested roads were identified as being responsible for the highest levels of pollution and monitoring is being centered on these areas to quantify the problem. The adjacent map indicates the extent of air quality monitoring within the County.

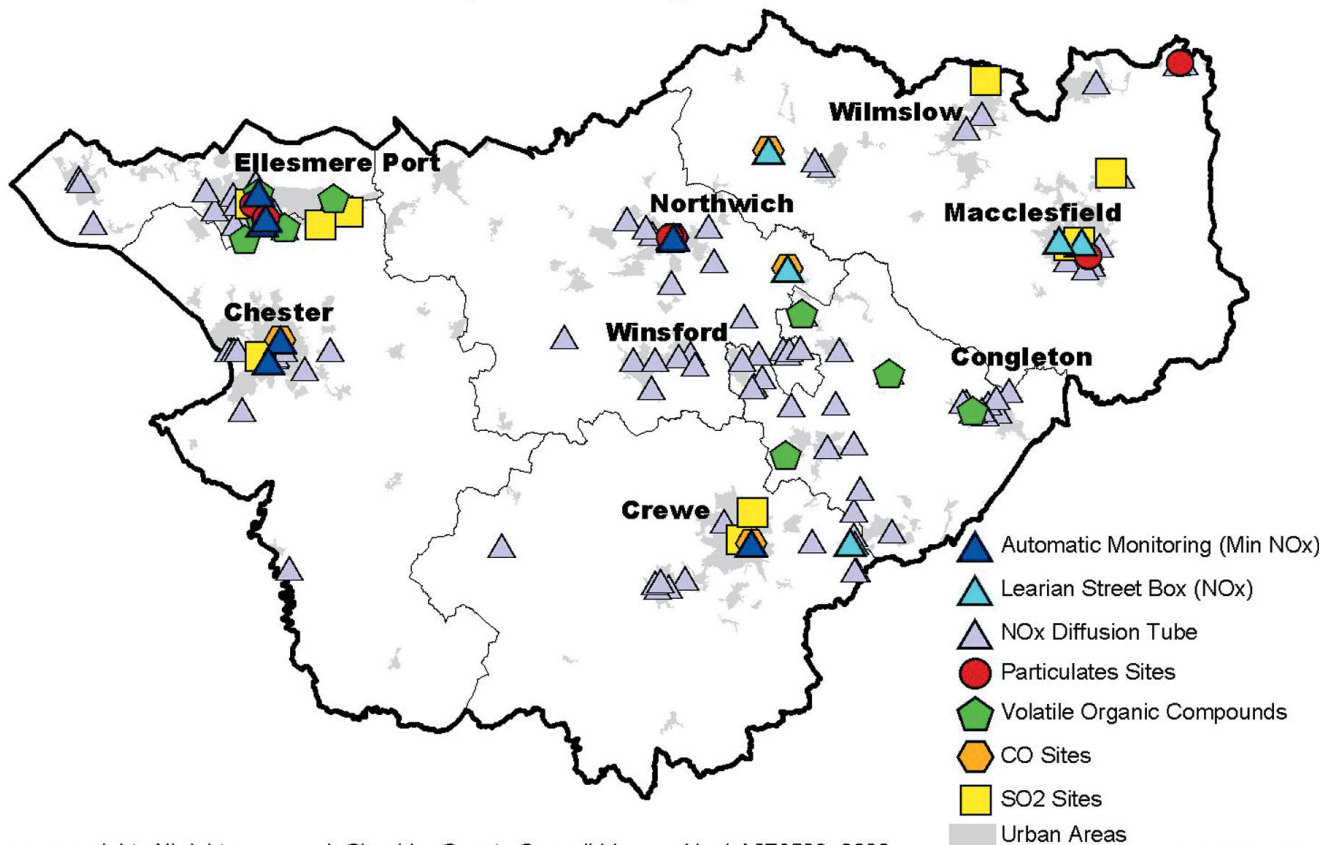
The review and assessment of air quality carried out in Cheshire during 2000 has revealed no breach of the governments health based standards for air pollutants. Consequently none of the District Councils need to declare Air Quality Management areas to control pollution levels.



When schools are on holiday traffic movements during the peak hours fall and congestion is reduced. The consequence of this is that pollution levels are reduced. The graph above shows levels of Nitrogen Dioxides measured at sites in Vale Royal over the last 10 years. It shows a downward trend in NO_x levels, especially in urban areas. In general, emissions of pollutants from industrial sources continue to fall. Traffic emissions are also beginning to fall although not so dramatically in urban areas.



Air Quality Monitoring Sites in Cheshire



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Source: CCC

Biodiversity

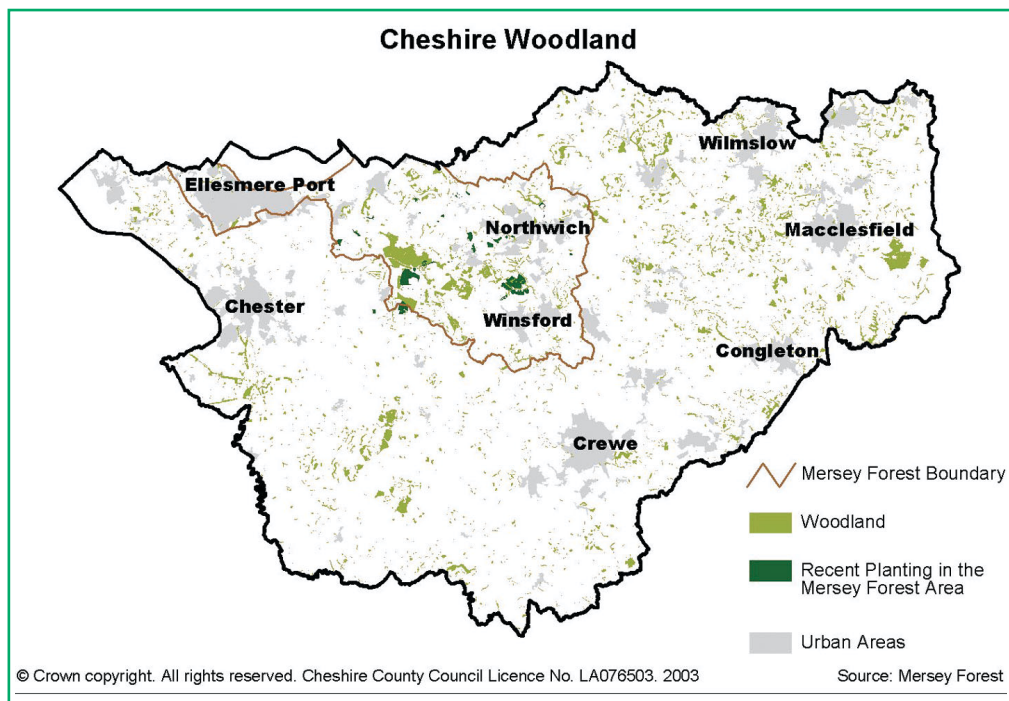
Cheshire has a rich landscape and diverse range of habitats that are valuable to a wide range of wildlife. In particular, our numerous waterbodies create interesting habitats for rare birds, amphibians, insects and mammals. Biodiversity is the term more often used to describe the diversity of plants and animals in our County.

In 2000, there were 62 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 615 Sites of Biological importance (SBI). There are 3 Special Protection Areas for birds, 2 National and 9 Local Nature Reserves and 29 Wildlife Trust Sites. The area of land protected by designation as a Local Nature Reserve has increased from 36 hectares in 1992 to 306 hectares in 2002.

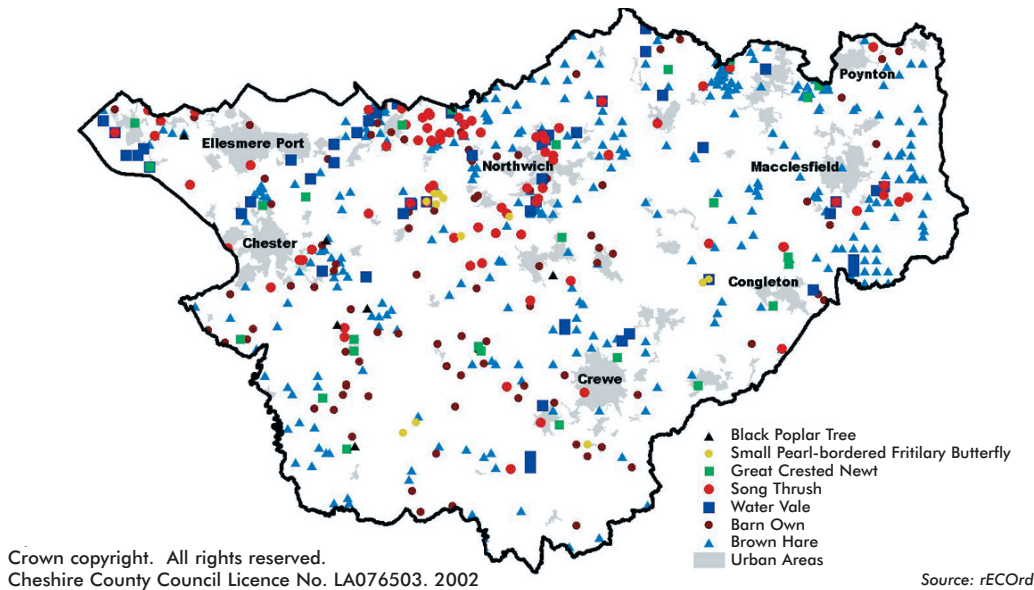
There is currently over 8,500 hectares of woodland, accounting for around 4% of the total area of Cheshire. The national average for woodland cover is 7.5% and government wants to see

this doubled. In Cheshire woodland cover is being increased, with around 40 hectares per annum being added by the Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme and additional Mersey Forest area planting.

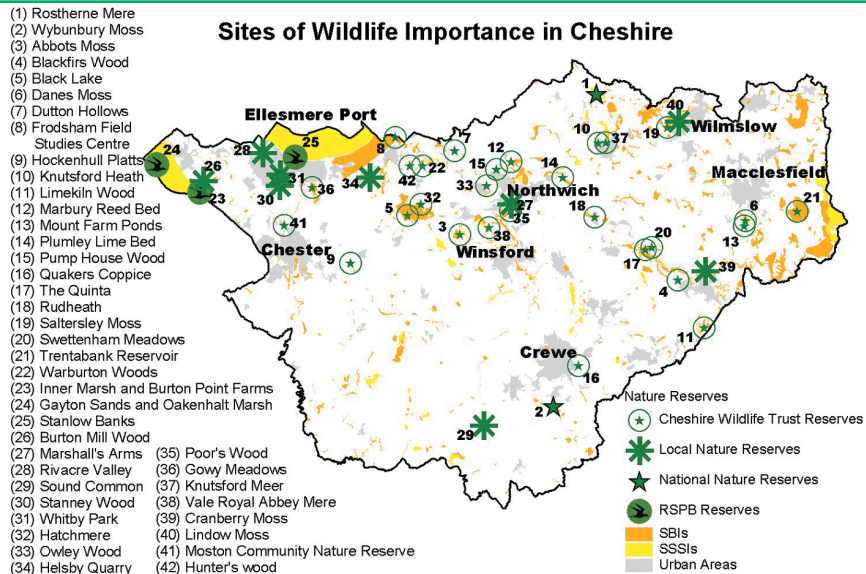
There are currently over 70 species and habitats identified as under threat through the Biodiversity Action Plan programme. These include the Otter, Watervole, Bluebell, Black Poplar, Song Thrush, Adder and Silver Studded Blue Butterfly. Information about sightings of these and other species is included in the maps on these pages.



The Distribution of Certain Biodiversity Action Plan Species Across Cheshire



Sites of Wildlife Importance in Cheshire



- (1) Rostherne Mere
- (2) Wybunbury Moss
- (3) Abbots Moss
- (4) Blackfirs Wood
- (5) Black Lake
- (6) Danes Moss
- (7) Dutton Hollows
- (8) Frodsham Field Studies Centre
- (9) Hockenhull Platts
- (10) Knutsford Heath
- (11) Limekiln Wood
- (12) Marbury Reed Bed
- (13) Mount Farm Ponds
- (14) Plumley Lime Bed
- (15) Pump House Wood
- (16) Quakers Coppice
- (17) The Quinta
- (18) Rudheath
- (19) Saltersley Moss
- (20) Swettenham Meadows
- (21) Trentabank Reservoir
- (22) Warburton Woods
- (23) Inner Marsh and Burton Point Farms
- (24) Gayton Sands and Oakenhalt Marsh
- (25) Stanlow Banks
- (26) Burton Mill Wood
- (27) Marshall's Arms
- (28) Rivacre Valley
- (29) Sound Common
- (30) Stanney Wood
- (31) Whitby Park
- (32) Hatchmere
- (33) Owley Wood
- (34) Helsby Quarry
- (35) Poor's Wood
- (36) Goway Meadows
- (37) Knutsford Meer
- (38) Vale Royal Abbey Mere
- (39) Cranberry Moss
- (40) Lindow Moss
- (41) Moston Community Nature Reserve
- (42) Hunter's wood

Eco Audit

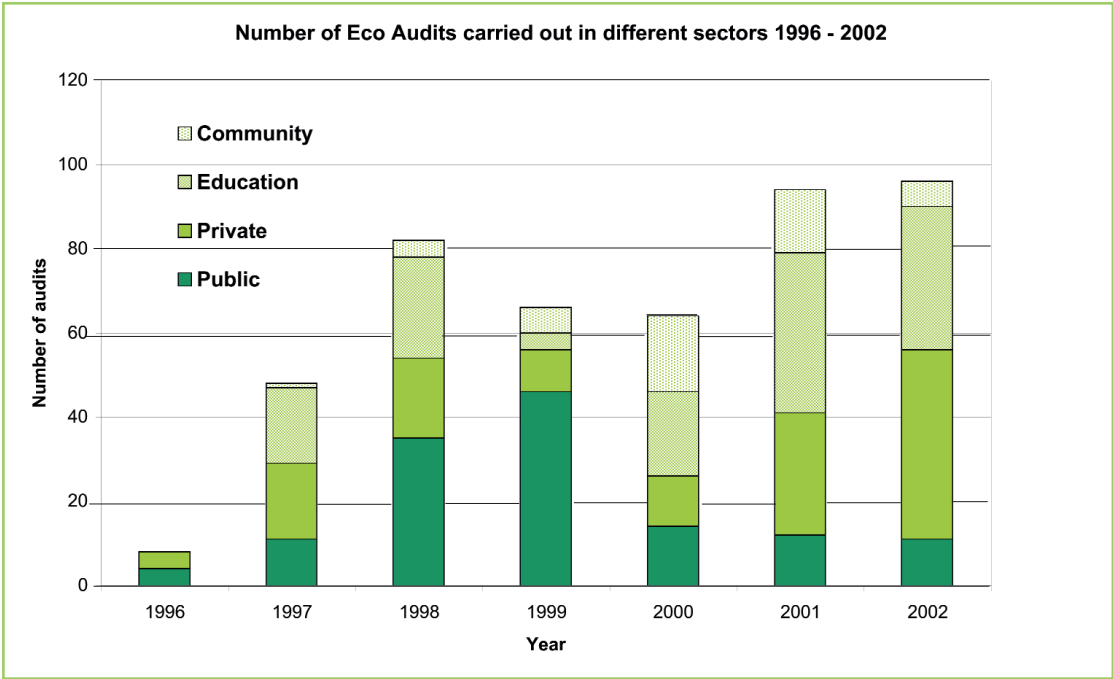
The number of businesses taking up environmental improvement measures has been increasing since the early 1990's. More recently, larger organisations have started publicly reporting their impact on the environment and society.

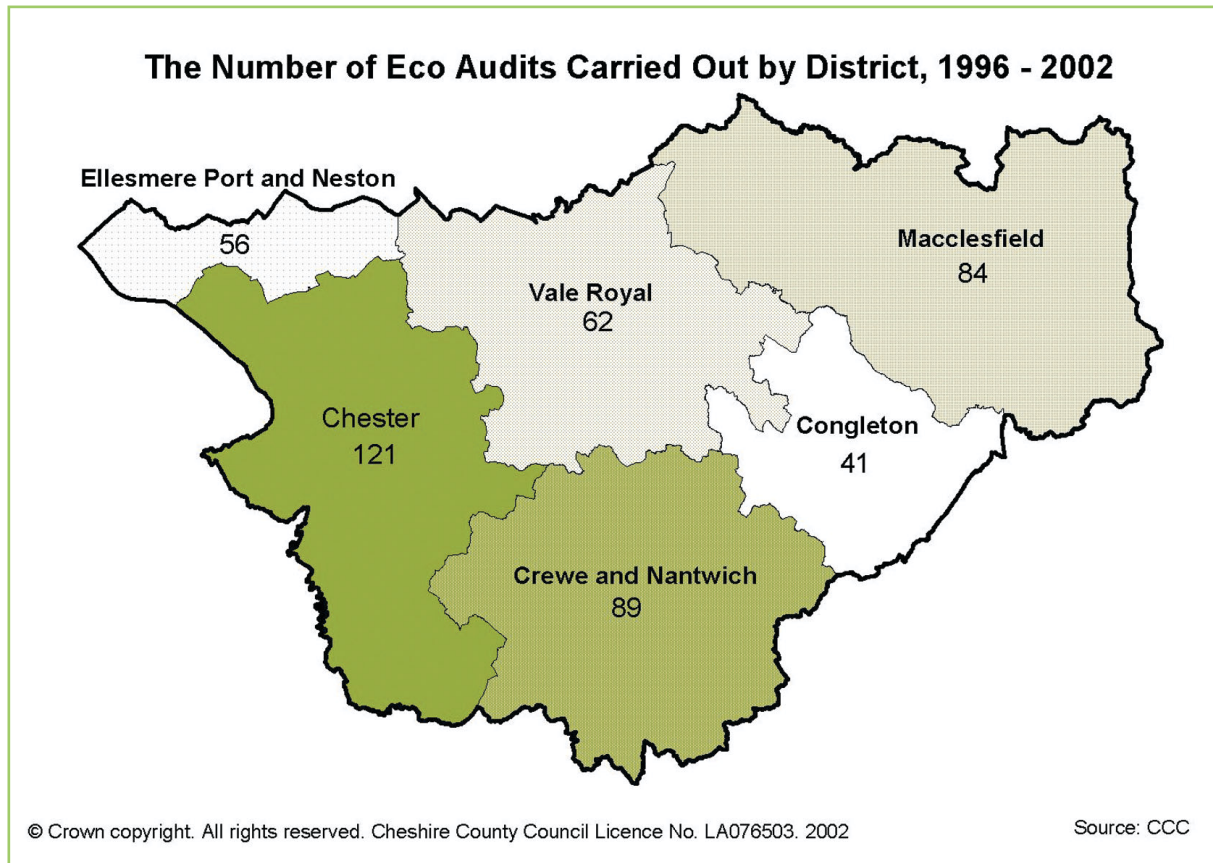
In 1996, the Sustainable Cheshire Forum felt there was a need to provide small businesses with a first step in improving their environmental performance. The Eco Audit model was developed from an original system used by the Environment Agency for regulating industry.

The aim of the project is to raise environmental awareness and highlight how effective

environmental management can lead to cost savings. A short site visit is conducted with organisational staff to gather information about its operation and then a report is sent to the site containing recommendations for action as well as a certificate of participation.

Since this time, the Eco Audit project has offered free and confidential environmental reviews to any organisation in Cheshire. To date over 500 sites have been visited across a diverse range of sites across the County. The number of audits conducted in each District and sector of society has varied over the years, as demonstrated by the graphs on these pages.





Energy

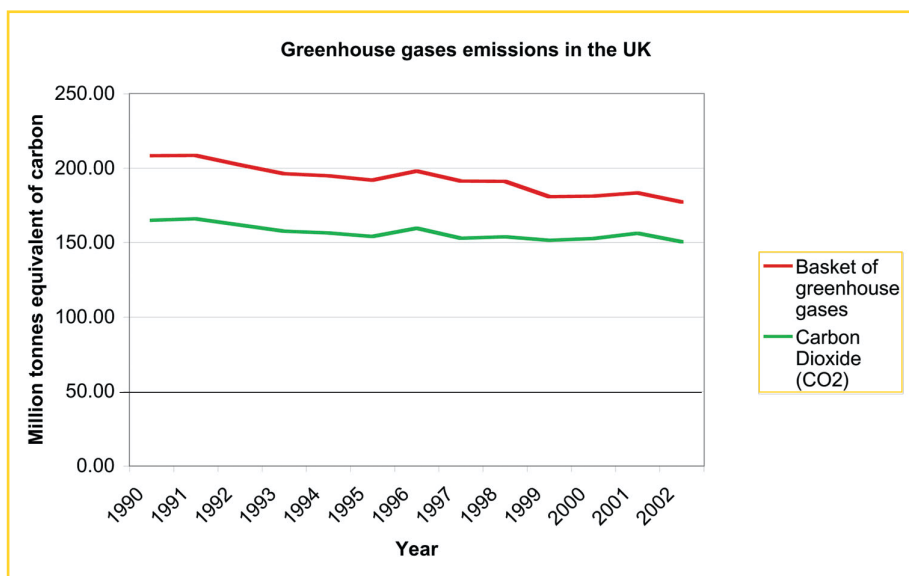
Cheshire has a number of large power stations within, and at the edge, of its boundaries. Fiddlers Ferry, Deeside and Rocksavage power stations contribute over 2000 Mega-Watts of energy to the national grid. Recently, Winnington Combined Heat and Power Station has been constructed and Ince Power station closed in 1997 and was subsequently demolished.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is produced whenever a fossil fuel is burned. CO₂ is the most significant of greenhouse gases, due to its global warming potential. Targets for the reduction of CO₂ emissions have been established internationally, nationally, and locally. In 2000, data shows that the average Cheshire resident emits around 10% more CO₂ than the average citizen of the North West. Cheshire is responsible for around 1.1% of the UK's total emissions of CO₂.

Methane (CH₄) is another greenhouse gas, and is mainly emitted from livestock and as a result of the decomposition of waste in landfill sites. CH₄ emissions from landfill sites across the North West are estimated to be around 313,000 tonnes per annum. CH₄ emissions from landfill in Cheshire are considerably lower than average, due to the high levels of methane recovery. Electricity is generated from methane produced at Danes Moss, Gowy and Maw Green landfill sites.

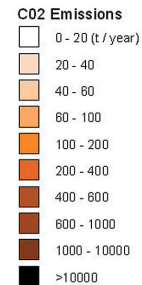
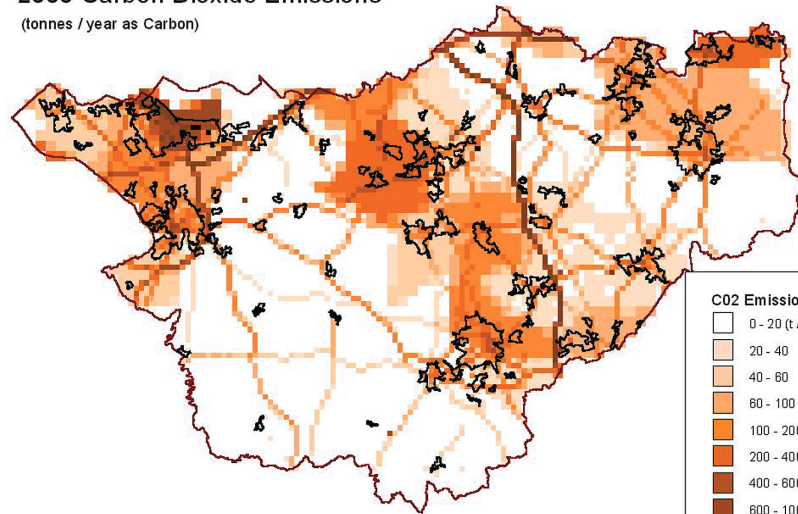
The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has also increased interest in renewable energy generation. The Cheshire Renewable Energy Initiative has been established to help promote and co-ordinate activity in this sector. The greatest potential in Cheshire may lie in biofuels. This is the use of plant materials and animal wastes to produce energy. For example, there is scope for the expansion of the Mersey Forest through the use of willow coppicing and other biomass crops.

Building regulations have considerably increased the minimum standards for insulation and energy efficiency in new buildings. The wider availability of grant aid and energy efficiency schemes has had a beneficial impact on homes and small businesses in the County. District Council Home Energy Conservation (HECA) schemes have also played a considerable role in improving energy performance in Cheshire.



2000 Carbon Dioxide Emissions

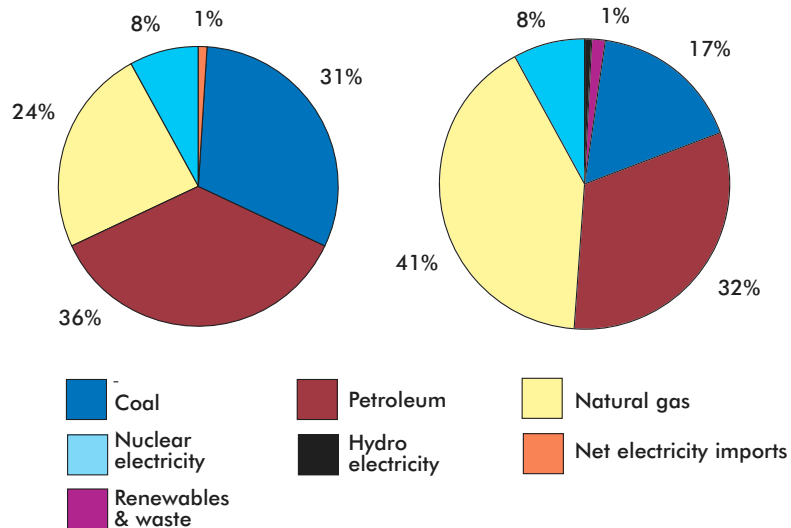
(tonnes / year as Carbon)



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Total Emissions in Cheshire : 2Mt
Landfill gas emissions not included.

UK Energy Consumption by Fuel 1990 - 2001



Food & Farming

Cheshire is a predominantly rural county and is dependent on its rural economy, environment and heritage. 83% of the total county area is classified as being rural and 70% of land in Cheshire remains in agricultural use. Almost 25% of Cheshire's population live in rural areas and 11% of Cheshire's workforce are employed in agriculture (including tourism and the food trade).

Farm size and type has varied significantly in the last ten years. The total number of farms has actually increased in recent years whilst the total area has decreased by around 10,000 hectares in the last ten years. The number of small (<5 hectares) and large (100< hectares) farms have increased whilst the number of medium sized farms decreased. In 2002 the most dominant farm type was mixed and other followed by cattle and sheep and then dairy. One third of Cheshire's agricultural land is classified as Grade 3 (good to moderate) by DEFRA, so explains why dairying, rather than arable, has historically predominated.

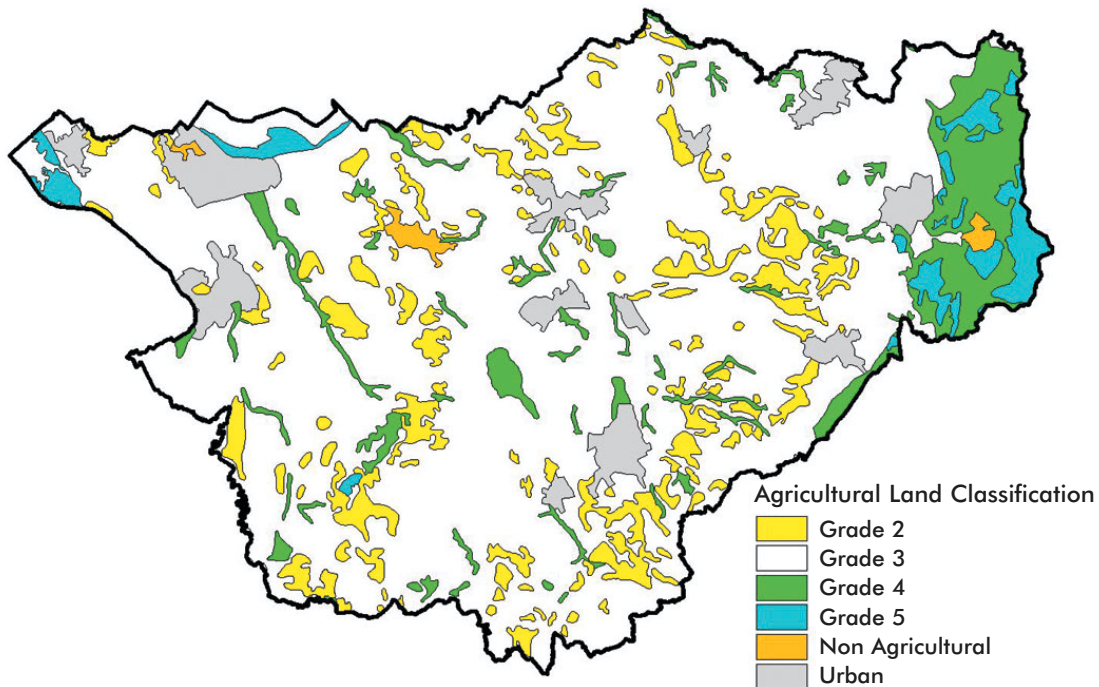
Across Cheshire a range of schemes are linking local food producers directly with consumers. These provide a number of

environmental, social and economic benefits which include fresh, healthy local produce at a fair price, secure local markets for local producers, increasing employment through local food enterprises and reducing the number of 'food miles' travelled.

Examples of current schemes include;

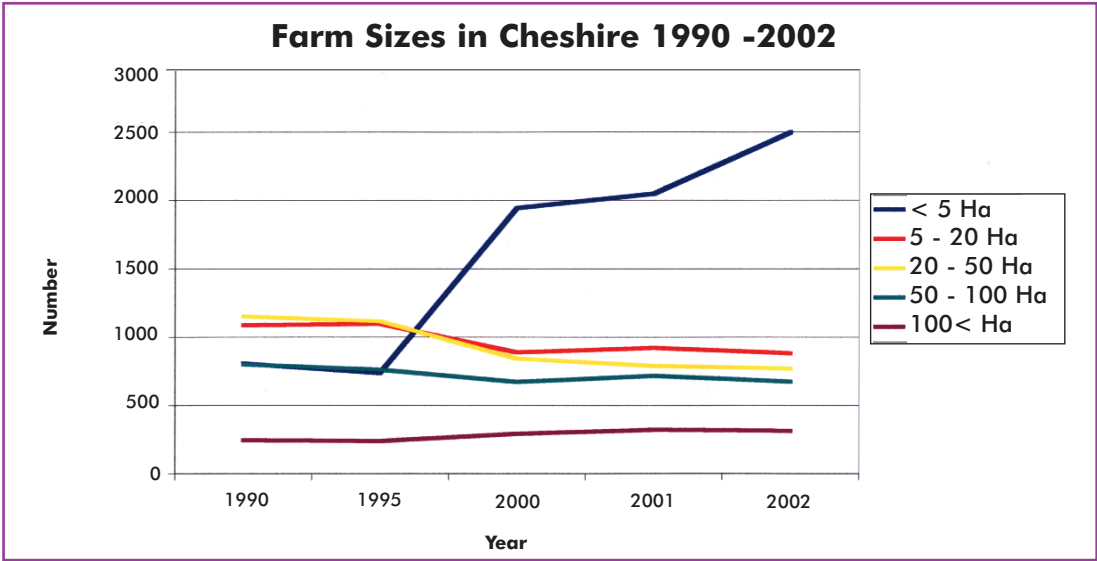
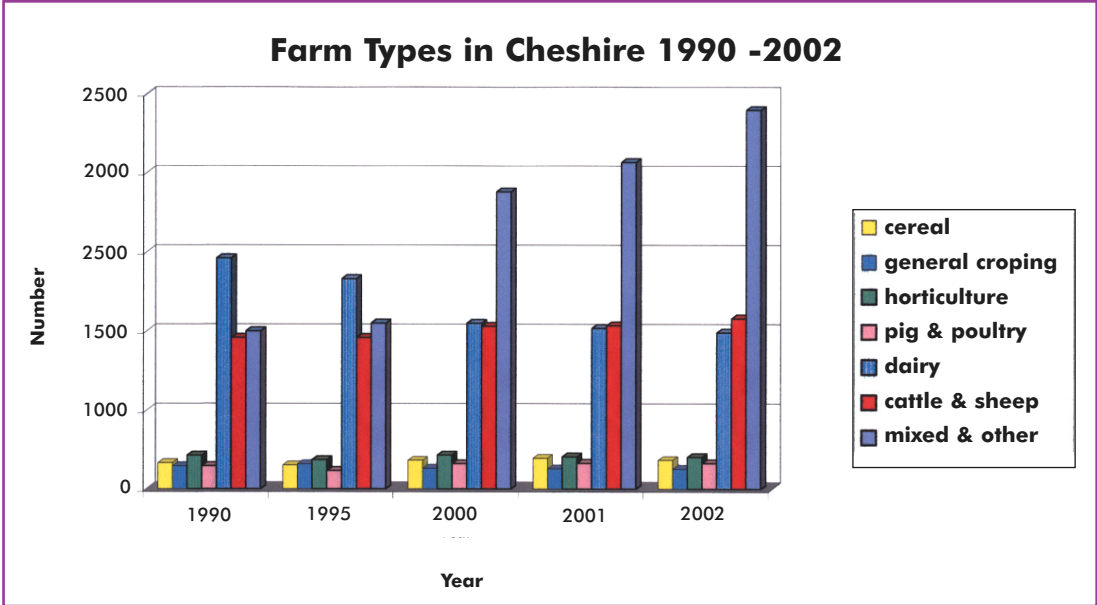
- farmers markets in Congleton, Kelsall, Knutsford and Nantwich
- local produce directories
- a "Made in Cheshire" brand, working with the industry and partners to market and promote local/distinctive food produced in our region
- local food festivals that raise awareness of locally produced food and drink
- the "Eat the View" project by the Countryside Agency and
- the "Local Food Works" project run by the Soil Association and the Countryside Agency

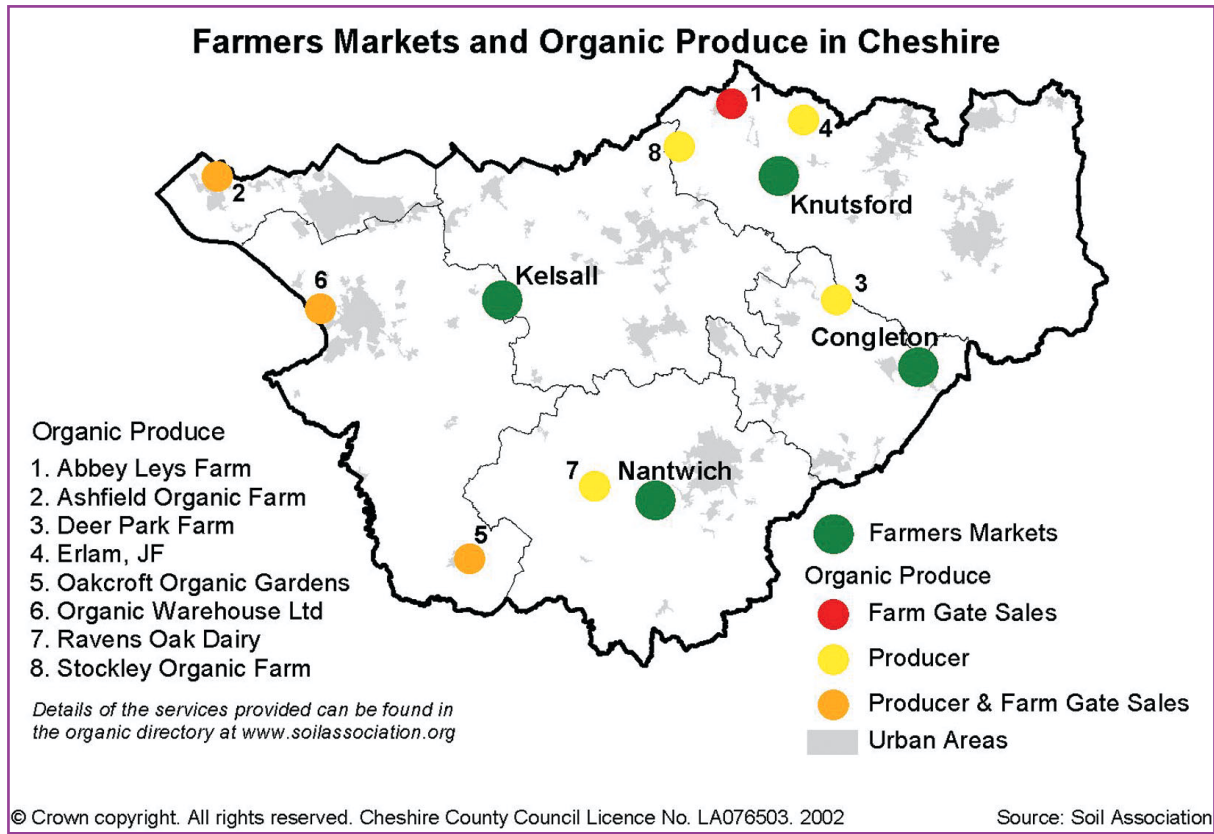
Agricultural Land Classification in Cheshire



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Source: DEFRA





Land

Cheshire has a landscape characterised by lowland plains, river valleys, woodlands and mires. The quality of Cheshire's built and natural environments help to create a strong sense of local identity. Between 1985 and 1995 over 1,659 hectares of land was converted to urban use, mainly through the development of housing. There is a large swathe of greenbelt land to the North and East of Cheshire, covering 78,560 hectares.

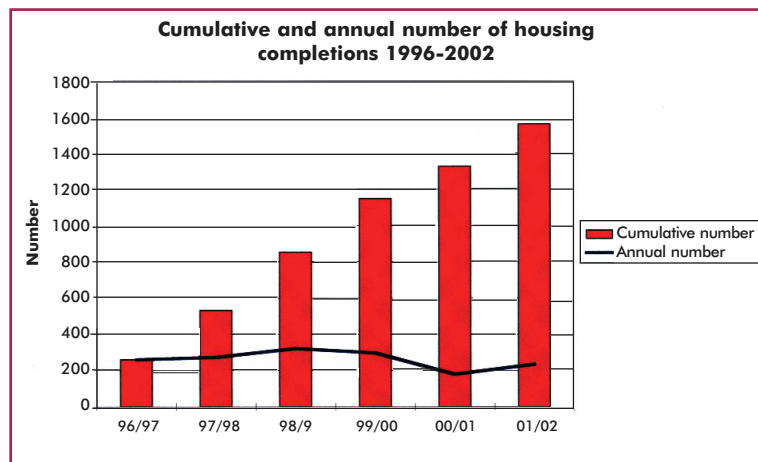
Cheshire's 2011 Replacement Structure Plan (1996) sets out the broad policy framework within which policies identify the amount and general location of land for new homes, businesses, shops and leisure facilities as well as the improvement of the transport network and protection of built and natural resources. In 2000, 49% of new housing development was on brownfield sites.

It is estimated that in 2002, there is approximately 4,409 hectares of derelict, underused and neglected land across Cheshire occupying around 668 sites. The Forestry Commission and North West Development Agency are embarking on a programme of environmental regeneration in the North West and this land will be reclaimed to improve it's environmental quality.

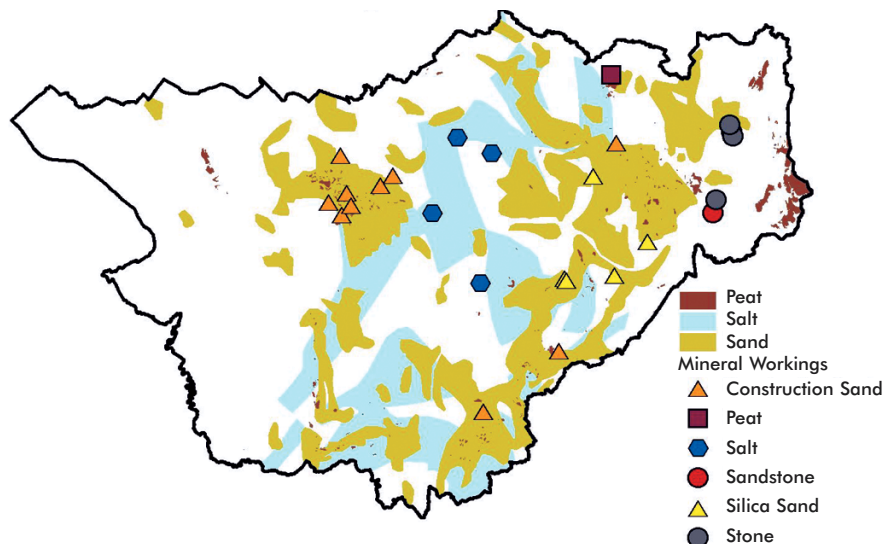
Cheshire enjoys a rich variety of minerals, some of which have been worked in since pre-historic times. Salt was originally worked by the Romans and has since contributed to the local chemical industries in the form of brine, whilst rocksalt from Cheshire is used in the de-icing of the majority of the UK's roads. Cheshire also holds reserves of silica sand, which is found in only a few places in

the UK, being used to supply glass-making and foundry industries. In addition, there are deposits of construction sand and gravel, sandstone, gritstone (aggregates) and peat which are worked at thirty sites across the County. Slowly, markets for recycled aggregates are being established, to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of whilst reducing the quantity of new aggregates being extracted. Increasingly, pressure is being placed to end the planning permissions of mineral operations that are currently dormant but could, if re-commenced, have a significant environmental impact. Established mineral operations that operate under old planning permissions are being reviewed to in an attempt to reduce their future environmental impacts.

The afteruse or restoration of mineral workings within Cheshire provides a variety of opportunities for habitat creation, agriculture, forestry and recreation. Mineral voids are also used for waste disposal purposes and some salt cavities are being used for the storage of gas.



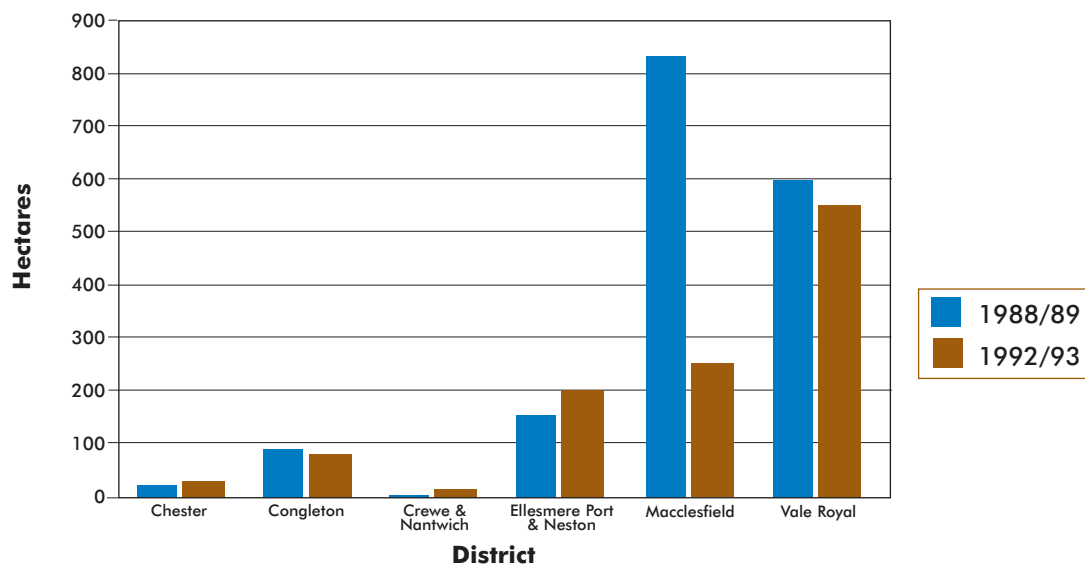
The Extent of Peat, Salt and Sand and Mineral Workings in Cheshire



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Source: CCC

Area of derelict land by District in 1988 and 1993 (hectares)



Local Heritage & Distinctiveness

Cheshire is composed of market towns, villages and hamlets. The historic city of Chester represents the administrative centre and is one of the county's largest conurbation's as well as an international tourist destination. Cheshire is well known for its black and white buildings, its red sandstone and its gritstone which help to create a landscape that evokes a sense of locality and distinctiveness.

The soils of Cheshire are directly related to the underlying rocks and sediments. Most of the county is underlain by red Triassic sandstone and this gives rise to a sandy soil as on the Sandstone Trail. However, in places the glacial sediments above these sandstones, have produced different types of soils depending on whether those sediments were a result of ice deposition, lake accumulations of organic material i.e. peat or wind blown sediments. This leads to a rich diversity of soils in Cheshire creating a fertile base for agriculture, tourism and biodiversity.

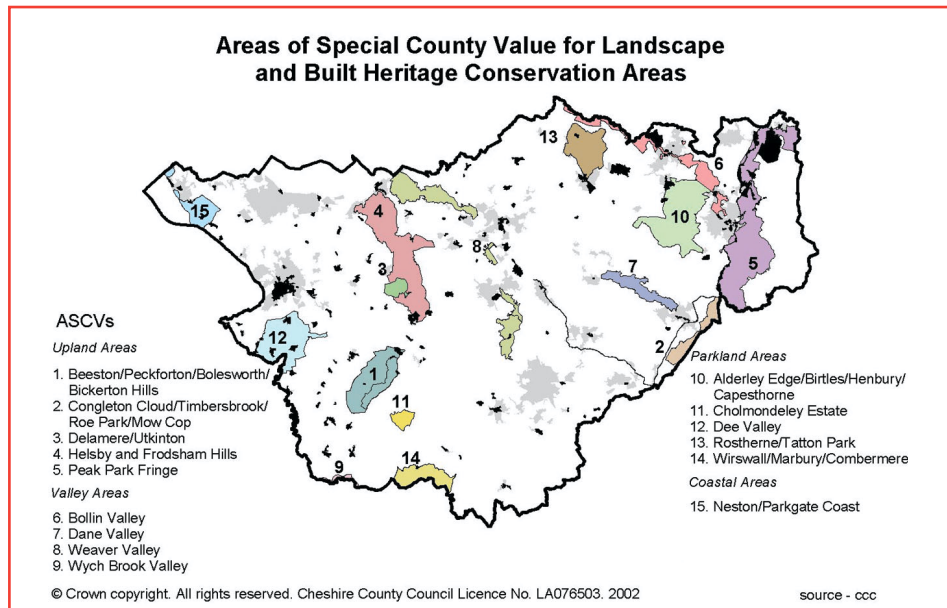
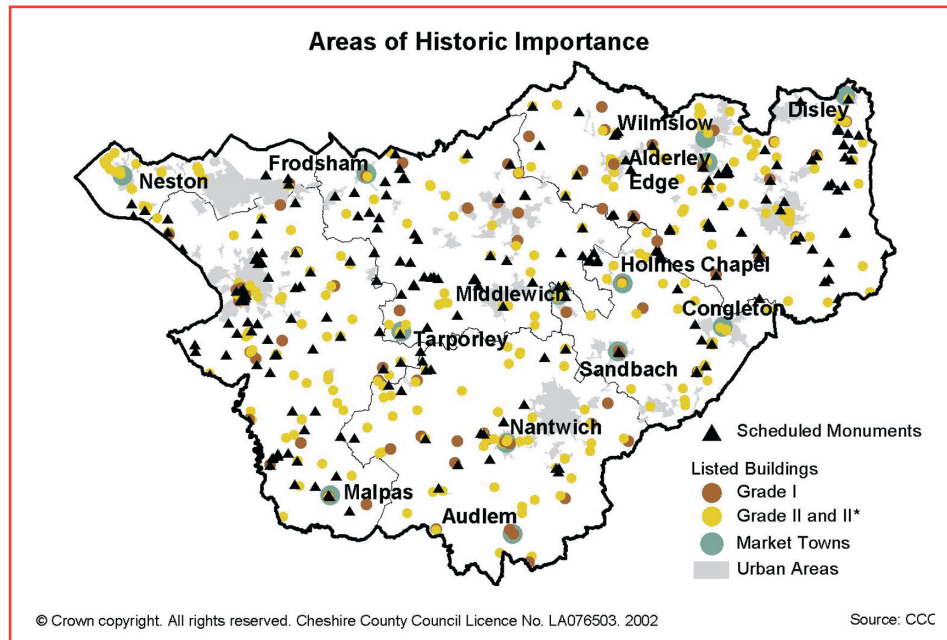
The Cheshire region has a distinctive and nationally important geodiversity. Geodiversity is the variety of soils, rocks, fossils and minerals as well as natural processes such as river processes, which are present throughout the whole county. This is obvious in the rich red colour of the rocks, soils, building stone and boundary walls. Geodiversity permeates every aspect of our

lives. We use the resources, live on and travel across the land and end our days within it. The character of Cheshire is determined by its geodiversity and we must safeguard it for its intrinsic value, its ecological value, its resource or economic value and for its (geo) heritage value.

In addition to national designations, the most important landscapes in Cheshire have been designated as Areas of Special County Value (ASCV) in order to protect them from development which would adversely affect their character or the features they contain. In Cheshire, there are 15 ASCVs, designated because of their landscape quality.

There are over 5,000 listed buildings in Cheshire, of which over 100 are of exceptional interest, or grade I. There are around 160 built heritage conservation areas, over 5,000 sites of archaeological interest and 239 Scheduled Monuments across the county.

The County Sites and Monuments Record (CSMR) currently holds over 5,000 records ranging in date from the prehistoric period to the post medieval period. The CSMR includes information on earthworks, standing buildings or structures (including all pre-1700 Listed buildings), isolated finds and sites which are no longer visible. The main purpose of the CSMR is the protection of the County's archaeological resource.



Transport

Transport is a diverse issue that has a fundamental impact on so many other environmental, economic and social issues that it is one that can significantly contribute to sustainable development through careful management. Providing integrated, sustain-able modes of transport is one of the greatest challenges facing the UK. Cheshire County Council is at the forefront of promoting transport initiatives to encourage people to think about appropriate means of travel.

Cheshire has a higher than average car ownership which contributes to the levels of increased traffic congestion on our roads. Walking accounts for 25% of all journeys and 80% of all journeys less than one mile. Yet, even over such short distances, journeys are increasingly being made by car. This is not only bad for the environment but may also lead to people exercising less, with adverse affects on the population's health. Cycling, like walking, is an energy efficient, pollution free and healthy form of transport and it is an ideal alternative to the car, especially for shorter trips.

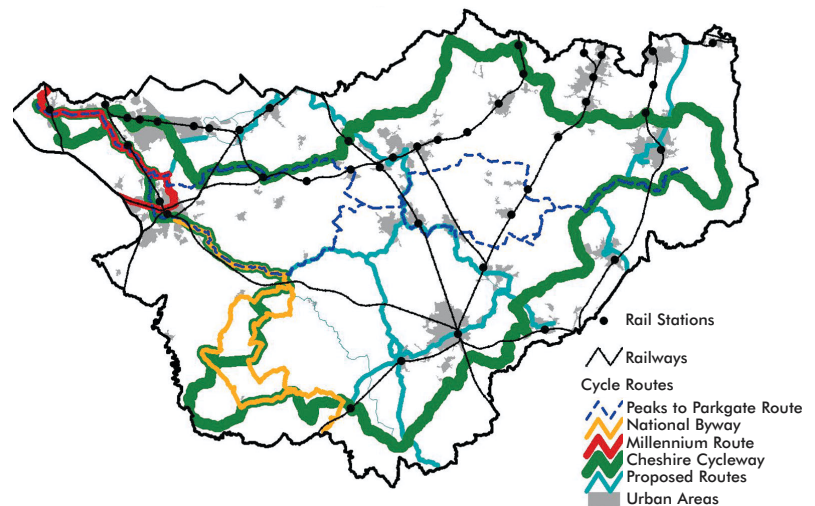
The school run is a major factor in the level of congestion on our roads at certain times of the day. It is estimated to contribute to 20% of traffic on the roads at 8.30am. There is considerable potential for reducing the number of car journeys and encouraging the use of

alternatives to the car, particularly for shorter trips.

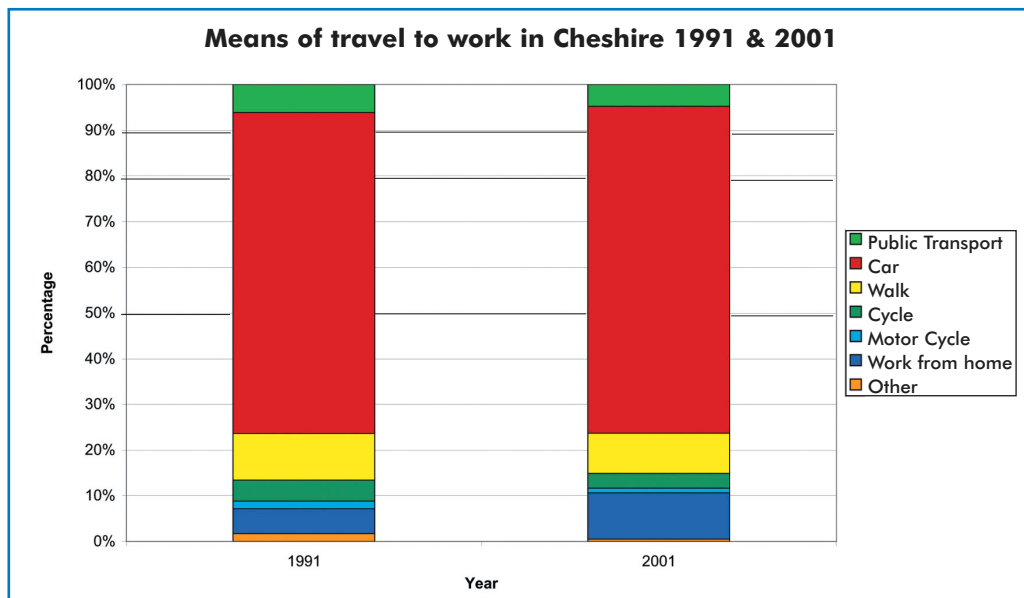
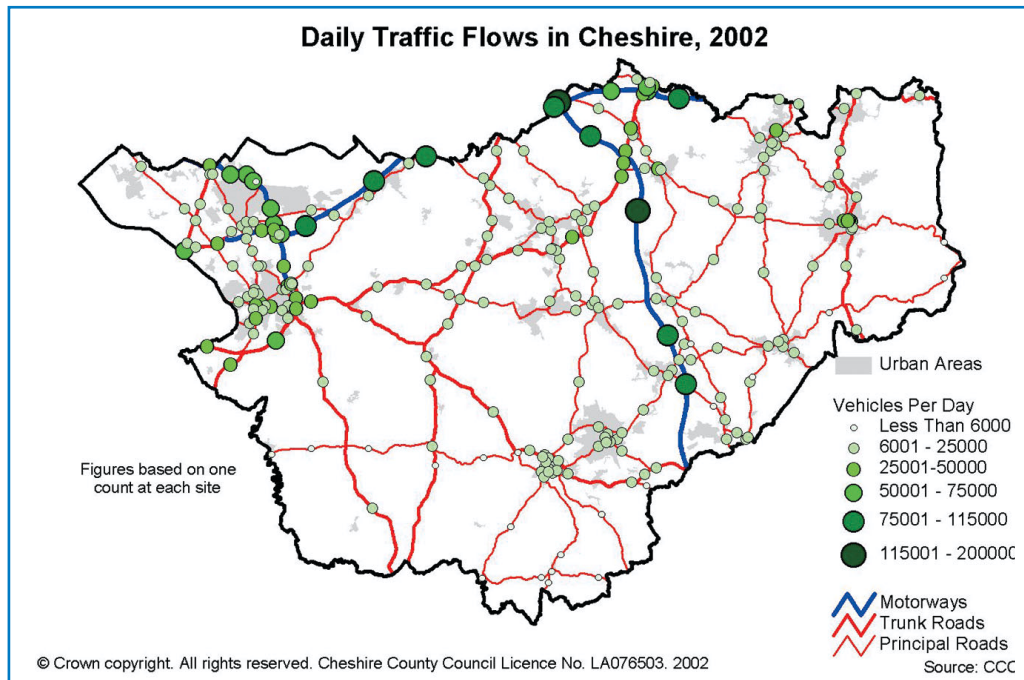
Buses have a major role to play to help reduce traffic congestion. In order to make buses more acceptable and to attract new passengers, their frequency and reliability need to improve. Improved passenger comfort, stable fares and readily available travel information are also needed.

In a county such as Cheshire, there are the additional complexities of providing access to services and facilities in rural areas. Since the Rural Bus Grant was introduced in 1998, 29 new rural bus services have been established. Programmes such as the Rural Transport Scheme, Dial A Ride and Rural Bus Challenge are providing ways of dealing with some of these issues.

The Rail Network and Cycle Routes in Cheshire



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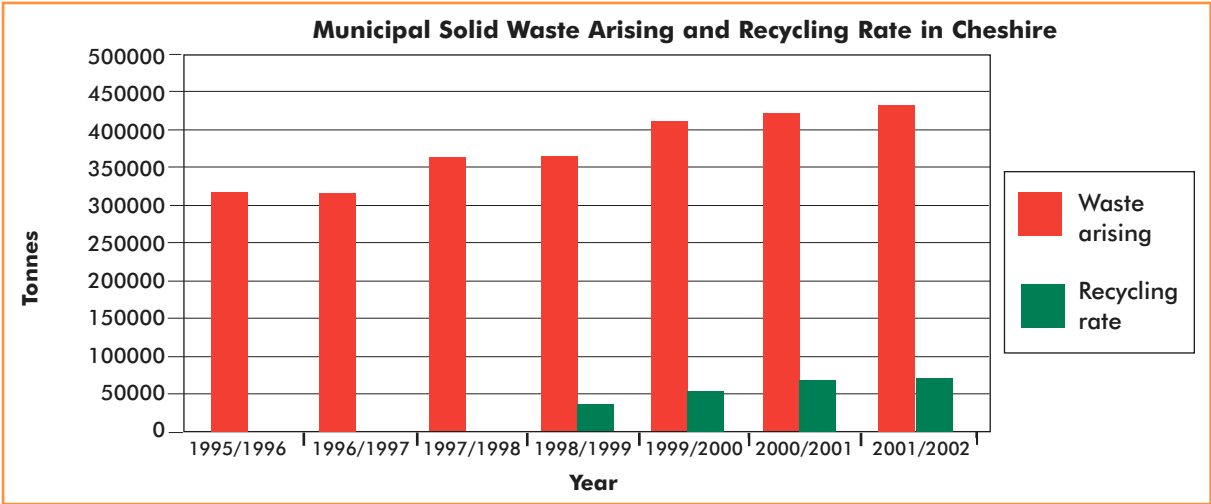
Waste

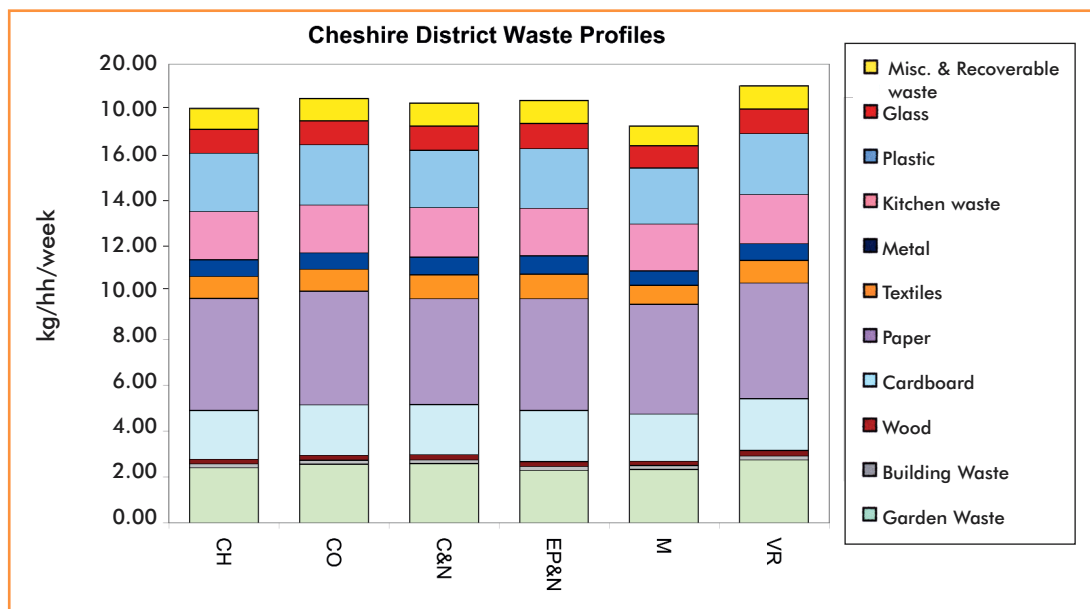
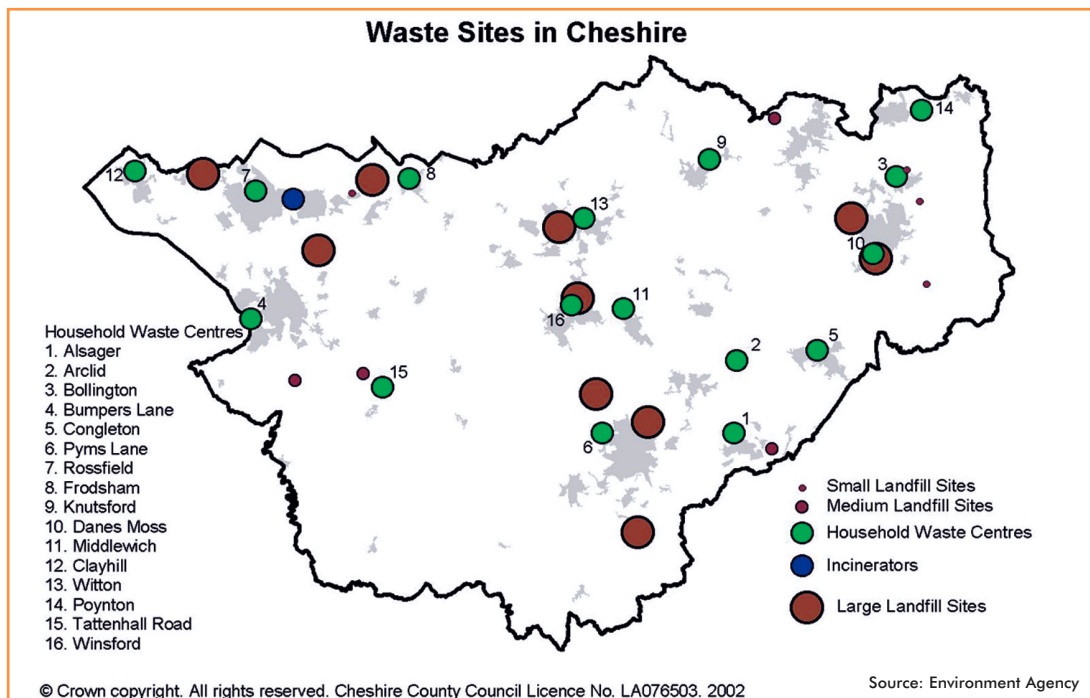
Our increasing consumption of natural resources is leading to more and more waste being produced. The amount of waste produced by Cheshire households alone (not including industry and commerce) in 2000-01 was over 423,000 tonnes. This amount of waste is increasing by 5% every year, equivalent to 21,150 tonnes. Currently, 85% of all household waste is sent to landfill. The major landfill sites in Cheshire are shown on the map opposite.

UK Government household waste recycling targets have now been set for all local authorities. In Cheshire, we need to achieve 22% recycling and composting rates by 2003/04 and 33% by 2005/06. In 2000/01, only 15% of household waste was recycled.

There are 12 household waste recycling centres in Cheshire which recycle glass, paper, clothing, cans and green waste. Household waste is actually composed of around one third green waste (garden and kitchen waste) and one third paper and card. Both of these fractions are biodegradable and so could be composted at home.

Cheshire County Council, in partnership with the six District Councils, has been working to produce a Joint Household Waste Management Strategy to reduce, reuse and recycle Cheshire's waste. To ensure this, a number of actions are proposed, including the provision of kerbside recycling schemes to households; home and community composting; waste awareness campaigns and improved facilities at our household waste recycling centres.





Water

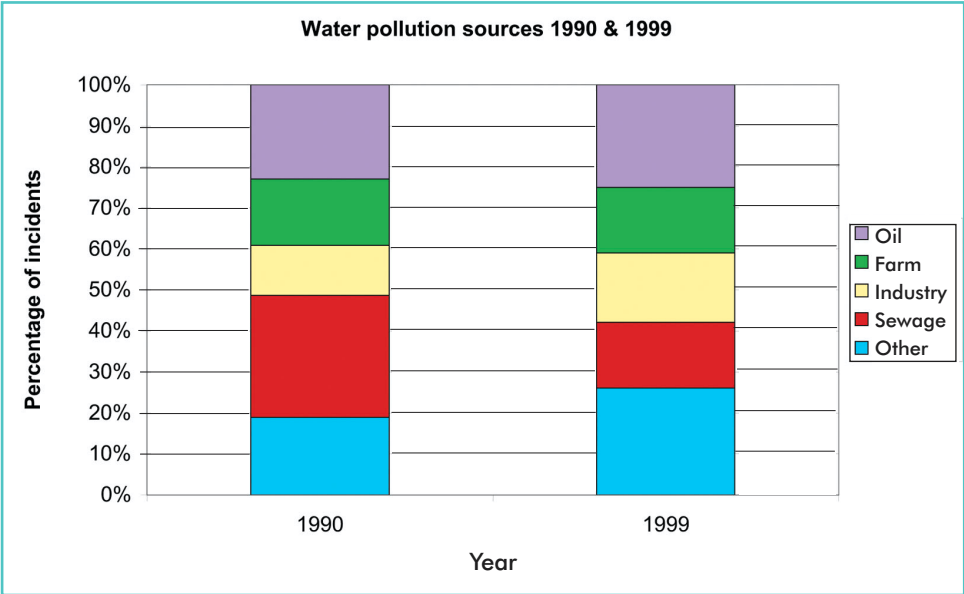
Water has a special significance in Cheshire. It has been a major factor in the success of the county's traditional industries from the early 20th Century onward. Salt extraction, movement of goods by canal and the Mersey Estuary are all examples. Cheshire has more waterbodies than any other county, made up of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, mire's and canals. The quality of these watercourses is essential to all other forms of life.

Although there has been a reduction in the numbers of pollution incidents and a continuing improvement in the quality of Cheshire's rivers and streams, in 2000, approximately 12% were still classified as "poor" or "bad" by the Environment Agency.

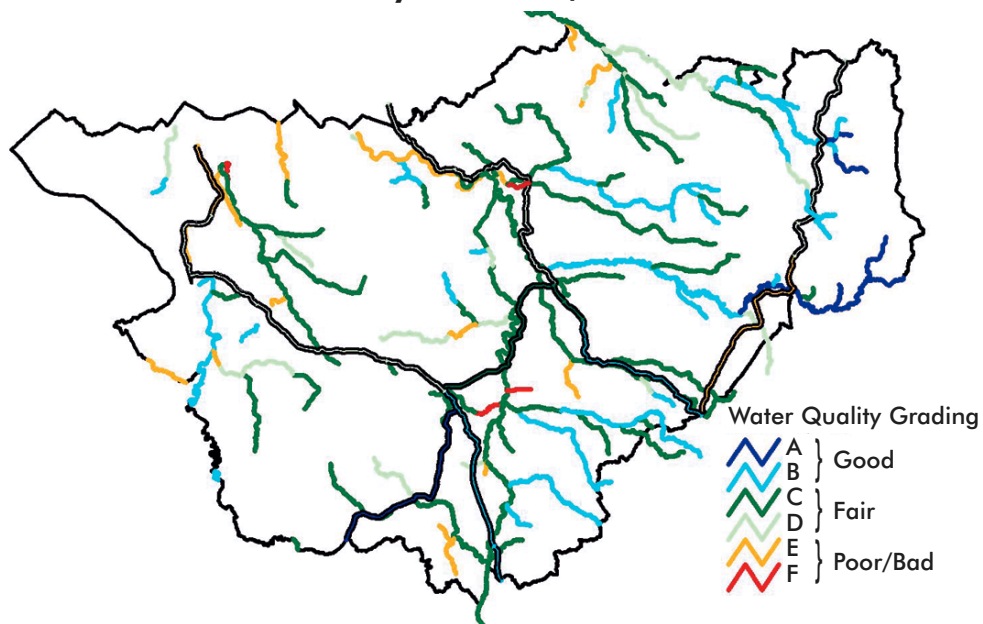
The national target is to reduce this to 9% or better by the year 2005. This drive towards greater improvement is reinforced by the Mersey Basin Campaign's long term objective of the return of salmon to the watercourses of the North West. Local partnerships will work with the Environment Agency and United Utilities to support these aims.

Actions to be taken include improvements to waste water

treatment works, improvements to consented discharges, quantification of point source and diffuse pollution from farms and the development of an action plan to prioritise farm visits. Specific watercourses will also be targeted. The river Weaver and it's navigation, for example, has significant stretches that are currently classified as poor quality and work will be undertaken to tackle the legacy of industrial discharges. At the same time, studies of the Manchester Ship canal will be carried out to identify the actions needed to improve the quality of the water and identify the physical barriers that currently prevent the migration of salmon into and along Cheshire's watercourses.



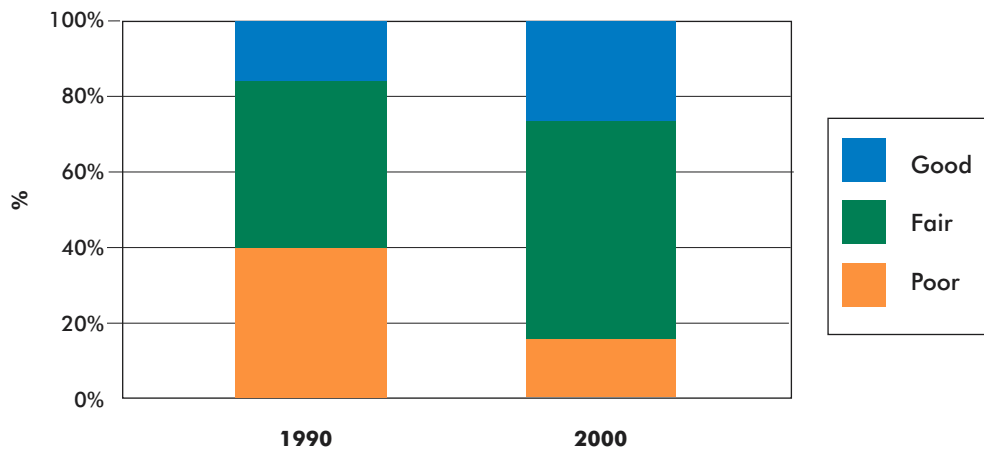
Water Quality in Cheshire, 2000-01



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Source: Environment Agency

Percentage of rivers of good, fair or poor quality in Cheshire



Places to Visit

Wildlife

- 1. Blue Planet** Tel: 0151 357 8800
Email: info@blueplanetaquarium.co.uk
Web: <http://www.blueplanetaquarium.co.uk>
- 2. Cheshire Waterlife** Tel: 01606 882223
Email: info@cheshirewaterlife.fsbusiness.co.uk
Web: <http://www.cheshire-waterlife.co.uk>
- 3. Chester Zoo** Tel: 01244 380280
Email: reception@chesterzoo.co.uk
Web: <http://www.chesterzoo.org>
- 4. Hillside Bird Oasis** Tel: 01565 873282
- 5. Reaseheath College** Tel: 01270 625131
Web: <http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk>

Education Centres (www.cheshire.gov.uk)

- 6. Beeston Outdoor Education Centre**
Tel: 01829 260535 Email: beestonoehead@cheshire.gov.uk
- 7. Burwardsley Outdoor Education Centre**
Tel: 01829 770424
Email: burwardsleyoehead@cheshire.gov.uk
- 8. Delamere Forest Outdoor Centre**
Tel: 01928 740393
Email: delamereoehead@cheshire.gov.uk
- 9. Tattenhall Centre** Tel: 01829 770223
Email: tattenhalloehead@cheshire.gov.uk

Gardens and Parks

- 10. Cheshire Blue Lavender** Tel: 01829 741099
Email: sarah.evans@bluelavender.co.uk
Web: <http://www.bluelavender.co.uk>
- 11. Delamere Forest Visitor Centre**
Tel: 01606 889792
Web: www.delamereforestpark.co.uk
- 12. Foxhill Arboretum** Tel: 01928 739189
- 13. Ness Gardens** Tel: 0151 353 0123
Email: nessgardns@liv.ac.uk
Web: <http://www.merseyworld.com/nessgardens/>

Heritage

- 14. Anderton Boat Lift** Tel: 01606 786777
Email: info@andertonboatlift.co.uk
Web: <http://www.andertonboatlift.co.uk/>
- 15. Beeston Castle** Tel: 01829 260464
- 16. Bunbury Watermill** Tel: 01829 261422
- 17. Grosvenor Museum** Tel: 01244 402008
- 18. Hack Green Secret Nuclear Bunker** Tel: 01270 629219
Email: coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk
Web: <http://www.hackgreen.co.uk>
- 19. Macclesfield Silk Museum** Tel: 01625 613210
Email: silkmuseum@tiscali.co.uk
Web: <http://www.silk-macclesfield.org>
- 20. Quarry Bank Mill** Tel: 01625 527468
Email: enquiries@quarrybankmill.org.uk
Web: <http://www.quarrybankmill.org.uk>
- 21. Salt Museum** Tel: 01606 41331
Email: cheshiremuseums@cheshire.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.saltmuseum.org.uk>

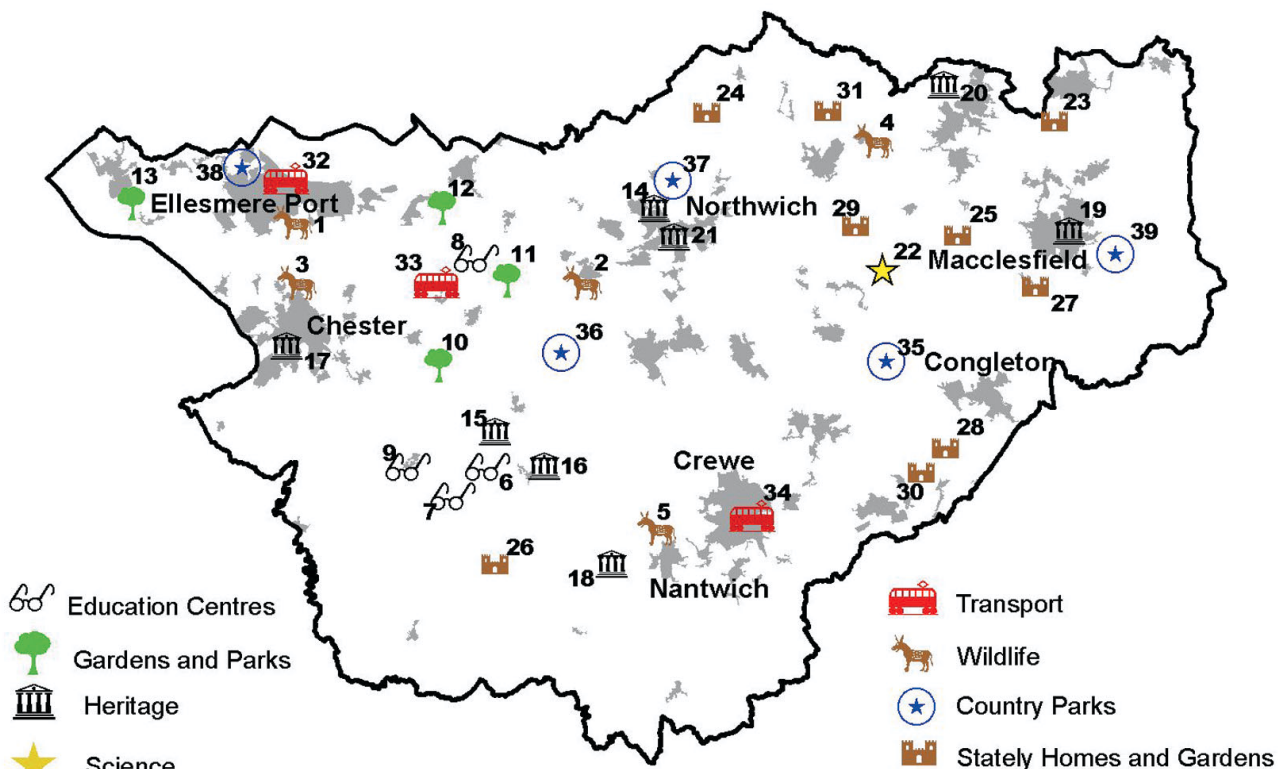
Science

- 22. Jodrell Bank** Tel: 01477 571339
Web: <http://www.jb.man.ac.uk/scicen>
Email: visitorcentre@jb.man.ac.uk

Stately Homes and Gardens

- 23. Adlington Hall** Tel: 01625 820201
Email: enquiries@adlingtonhall.com
Web: <http://www.adlingtonhall.com>
- 24. Arley Hall & Gardens** Tel: 01565 777353
Email: enquiries@arleyestate.zuunet.co.uk
Web: <http://www.arleyestate.zuunet.co.uk>
- 25. Capesthorne Hall** Tel: 01625 861221
Email: info@capesthorne.com
Web: <http://www.capesthorne.com>
- 26. Cholmondley Castle Garden** Tel: 01829 720383
- 27. Gawsworth Hall** Tel: 01260 223456
Email: enquiries@gawsworthhall.com
Web: <http://www.gawsworthhall.com>
- 28. Little Moreton Hall** Tel: 01260 272018
Email: mlmsca@smtp.ntrust.org.uk
Web: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Places to Visit in Cheshire



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Source: CCC

29. Peover Hall and Gardens Tel: 01565 632358

30. Rode Hall Tel: 01270 873327

31. Tatton Park Tel: 01625 534400

Email: tatton@cheshire.gov.uk

Web: <http://www.tattonpark.org.uk>

Transport Museums

32. Boat Museum Tel: 0151 355 5017

Email: bookings@thewaterwaystrust.org

Web: <http://www.boatmuseum.org.uk>

33. Mouldsworth Motor Museum Tel: 01928 731781

34. The Railway Age Tel: 01270 212130

Web: <http://www.therailwayage.co.uk>

Country Parks (www.cheshire.gov.uk)

35. Brereton Heath Country Park Tel: 01477 534115

E-mail: brereton@cheshire.gov.uk

36. Little Budworth Country Park Tel: 01606 889941

E-mail: linmere@cheshire.gov.uk

37. Marbury Country Park Tel: 01606 77741

E-mail: marbury@cheshire.gov.uk

38. Rivacre Valley Tel: 0151 357 1991

E-mail: rivacre@cheshire.gov.uk

39. Teggs Nose Country Park Tel: 01625 614279

E-mail: teggs@cheshire.gov.uk

Organisations

BTCV (<http://www.btcv.org>)

BTCV runs regular conservation tasks, during the week and at weekends. Tasks vary from tree planting to dry stone walling, footpath construction to creating wildlife habitats.

Email: Cheshire@btcv.org.uk

Chester Group - Tel 01244 300230

Pex Hill Group -Tel: 0151 423 4433

Cheshire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre

(CHEEAC) (<http://www.est.org.uk>)

Energy Efficiency Advice Centres (EEACs) are community-based resources, which provide a wealth of free, impartial and locally relevant energy efficiency advice and expertise.

Email: cheeacc@epplus.org

Tel (Freephone): 0800 512012

Cheshire Landscape Trust

Cheshire Landscape Trust is a charity which works at the grassroots level with community groups, including parish and town councils, schools and the Women's Institutes to promote landscape awareness and conservation through community action.

Tel: 01244 376333,

Email: cheshire@landscapetrust.net

Cheshire Watch

(<http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cheshire/watch.htm>)

Wildlife Watch is the junior branch of Cheshire Wildlife Trust. Wildlife Watch helps children to understand their surroundings, contribute to scientific research, develop an awareness of the environment and have fun and learn at the same time.

Tel: 01270 610180, Email: jshone@cheshirewt.cix.co.uk

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

(<http://www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/cheshire/>)

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust works in partnership with a range of others to preserve the heritage of Cheshire's plants and animals, and its wild places for all to enjoy, both now and in the future.

Tel: 01270 610180, Email: cstorey@cix.co.uk

Council for the Protection of Rural England

(<http://www.cpre.org.uk/>)

CPRE exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

Cheshire Branch - Tel 01606 835046,

E-mail: info@cprecheshire.org.uk

Friends of the Earth (<http://www.foe.co.uk/>)

The largest international network of environmental groups in the world, and one of the leading environmental pressure groups in the UK. Friends of the Earth is a charity which commissions detailed research and provides extensive information and educational materials.

South Cheshire FOE

(<http://www.geocities.com/foesouthcheshire/home.html>)

Tel: 01270 569 737

Email: janet@foesouthcheshire.co.uk

Northwich & Mid Cheshire FOE

Tel: 01606 76781

Email: t.washburn@dolphinaccess.net

Chester & District FOE

Tel: 01829 741723

Email charles_thompson@tiscali.co.uk

Mersey Basin Campaign

(<http://www.merseybasin.org.uk/>)

The Mersey Basin Campaign is a government-backed partnership, to deliver water quality improvements and waterside regeneration throughout the Mersey Basin River system.

Tel: 0161 242 8200,

Email: campaign@merseybasin.org.uk

Mersey Forest (<http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/>)

The Mersey Forest Project is a partnership that is creating the largest of England's twelve 'Community Forests' - forests created within, around, for and by local communities. It covers a total of 110,000 ha of land, across Merseyside and North Cheshire.

Tel: 01925 816217, Email: mail@merseyforest.org.uk

Cheshire County Council Contacts

Aerial Photographs

Dave Matthews 01244 603158

Archaeology

Adrian Tindall 01244 603160

Countryside Management

Jo Danson 0151 3272084

Cycle Routes

Anna Geroni 01244 603617

Land Regeneration

Gareth Ellis 01244 603171

Eco Audit

Emma Robson 01244 603125

Environmental Management

John Pearson 01244 603191

Environmental Protection

Geoff Corker 01244 603149

Historic Buildings

Steve Jardine 01244 603161

Landscape

David Blackburn 01244 603164

Life EcoNet

Ian Marshall 01244 603205

Mersey Basin Campaign

Ian Whittaker 01244 603166

Mersey Forest

01925 816217

Nature Conservation

Martin Schofield 01244 603119

Public Rights of Way

Alan Bowring 01244 603010

Recycling

Ruth Miller 01244 603995

Rural Policy

Fil Prevc 01244 602885

Travelwise

Jamie Matthews 01244 603996

Trees and Woodlands

Ian Dale 01244 603174

Waste Management

Harold Collin 01244 603502

