

E l l e s m e r e

Conservation Area Appraisal

Area 5: St. John's Hill

Quiet narrow street of elegant early 19th century brick and render houses and former shops. Predominantly 3 storey. Rising from town centre. Widens towards top with larger, well spaced houses. Merges with areas 2 and 3.



Area 6: Watergate Street

Part of the medieval core of the town. Serpentine street creates strong sense of enclosure. Buildings, predominantly brick ended houses on narrow plots, increase in height and density toward the town centre. Some gaps and C20 infilling of indifferent quality.



Area 7: High Street, Cross Street, and Scotland Street

The main retail and commercial area, usually quiet but more animated with summer visitors. The Square (actually triangular) provides focal point emphasised by the Town Hall with colossal projecting pediment. Street frontages, predominantly brick and render, 2,3 and 4 bays, 3 storey, C18 - early C19 near the centre. Less uniformity and some larger late C19 buildings (e.g. Market Hall) toward the periphery. Environmental enhancements have made the centre pedestrian friendly and improved the visual character. Particularly fine public lavatories.



Area 8: Market Street

Quiet, inclined, narrow street within retail area. 2-storey brick, render, and timber framed facades. Gables and dormers add interest to roof-lines. Former C19 rennet works dominates upper end of street. Town Hall looms above lower end.



Area 9: Willow Street and lower end of Scotland Street

Forms part of the route for through-traffic. E side Street characterised by variety of C18 -19 houses, sited singly, in pairs or short rows. Although many good individual buildings the visual character is undistinguished and incoherent (except at the junction with Market Street) and not aided by the suburban character of C20 developments on the W side. The Hollies, a large gentry house at W end of Scotland Street marks the suburban edge of the early C19. Now surrounded by later C19 terraces and C20 developments.



Area 10: Talbot Street and Sparbridge

Main route for through traffic. Poor environmental quality with little sense of place. Conspicuous poor quality C20 commercial developments and public car park. Visual character of latter should improve as recent tree planting matures. Distinctive terrace of artisan cottages, Charlotte Row, with well maintained allotment front gardens is revealed as Sparbridge curves to the S.



Area 11: Trimpey Street and Stanham Court

Large detached Georgian house in grounds on edge of early C19 town. Setting now compromised by with C20 sheltered housing in grounds. Trimpey Street, short terraces and villas on mark C19 expansion, leading to C20 suburban estates and open countryside.



Area 12: Beech House and Canal Workshops, Shropshire Union Canal, Wharf and Wharf Road - "the best preserved canal workshop site in Britain" dating from 1806 (Listed II*). Closely grouped brick, stone and timber buildings framed by mature trees at busy canal junction, in open countryside. Canal has strongly rural character and brings the countryside into the centre of town. Views to sharply defined S edge of town in rural setting marred by derelict creamery and sewage works. Opportunity to enhance and reinvigorate Wharf area as part of creamery site redevelopment, but character threatened by wrong type of development.

Traditional building materials: Predominantly brick and rendering, some timber framing, slate and tile roofs. Many buildings characterised by wide projecting roof verges and eaves, sometimes with decorated barge boards. Early 19th century buildings exhibit delicacy and refinement in their detailing.



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North Shropshire District Council

Ellesmere Conservation Area

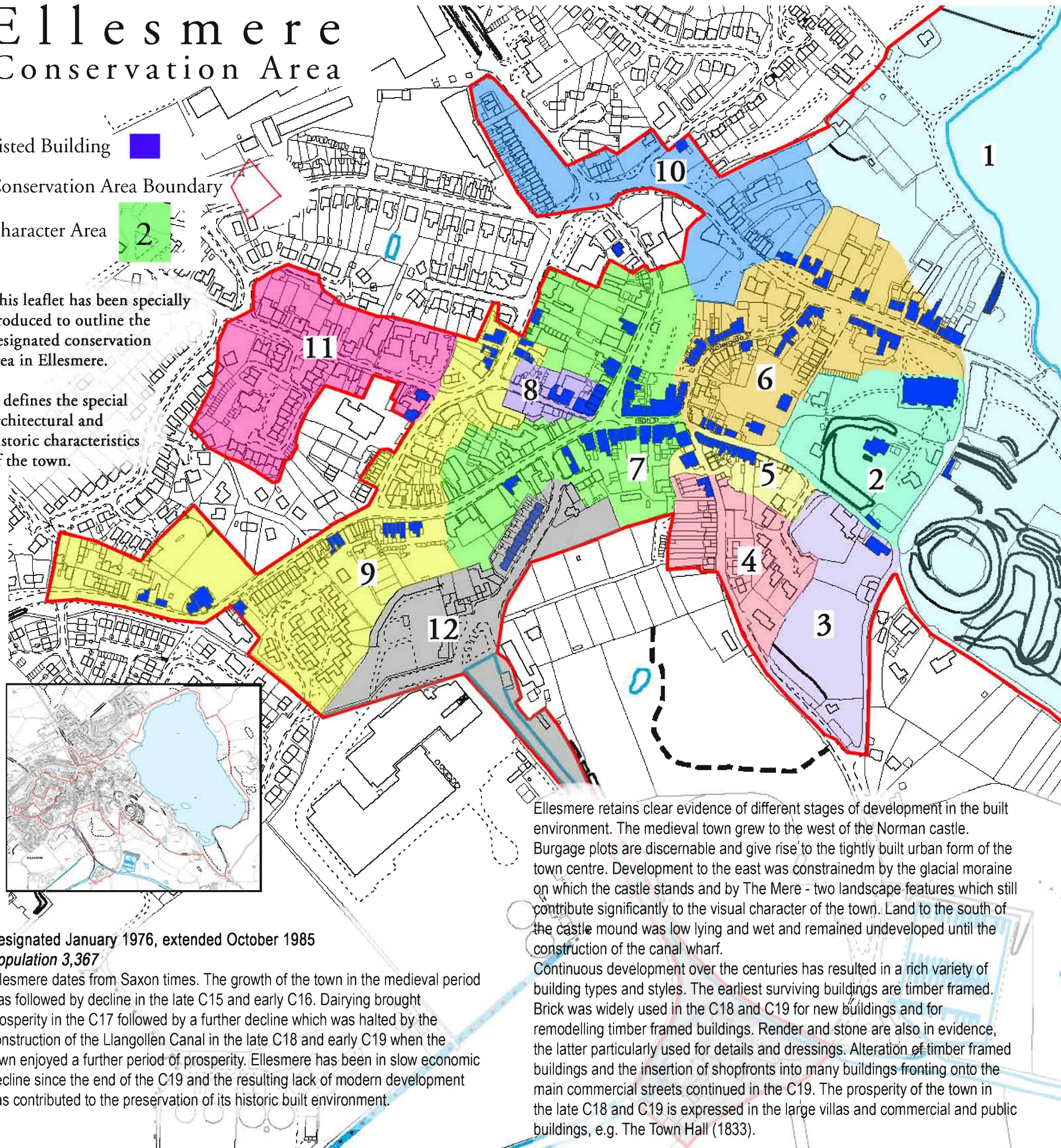
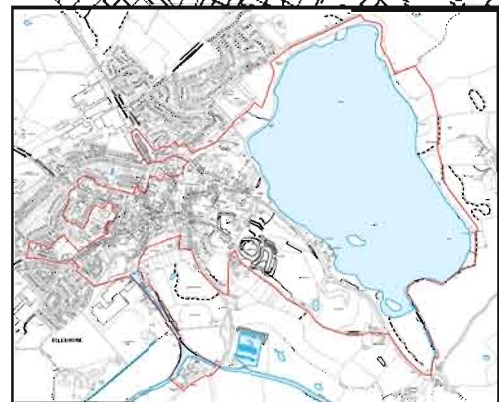
Listed Building 

Conservation Area Boundary 

Character Area 

This leaflet has been specially produced to outline the designated conservation area in Ellesmere.

It defines the special architectural and historic characteristics of the town.



Ellesmere retains clear evidence of different stages of development in the built environment. The medieval town grew to the west of the Norman castle. Burgage plots are discernable and give rise to the tightly built urban form of the town centre. Development to the east was constrained by the glacial moraine on which the castle stands and by The Mere - two landscape features which still contribute significantly to the visual character of the town. Land to the south of the castle mound was low lying and wet and remained undeveloped until the construction of the canal wharf.

Continuous development over the centuries has resulted in a rich variety of building types and styles. The earliest surviving buildings are timber framed. Brick was widely used in the C18 and C19 for new buildings and for remodelling timber framed buildings. Render and stone are also in evidence, the latter particularly used for details and dressings. Alteration of timber framed buildings and the insertion of shopfronts into many buildings fronting onto the main commercial streets continued in the C19. The prosperity of the town in the late C18 and C19 is expressed in the large villas and commercial and public buildings, e.g. The Town Hall (1833).

Areas of distinctive character

Area 1: The Mere, Cremorne Gardens, Castle Mound and Castle Field

Tranquil areas of high landscape quality with extensive public access for recreational use. Popular destination for visitors and wildfowl.



Area 2: Church Street, Church Hill and Church precincts

Western edge of town sharply defined. Dramatic contrast between open space (Area 1) and narrowness at entry to Church Street. Georgian town houses and high sandstone walls retaining elevated churchyard give strong sense of enclosure. Church Street wider and development less coherent toward town centre. Churchyard and leafy precinct with vicarage and large, detached C18 houses occupy highest part of town. Atmosphere of quite refinement. Striking views over Mere from churchyard. Cobbled paving survives in Pinfold Lane.



Area 3: Love Lane

Narrow, sloping, winding lane enclosed by high sandstone walls and canopy of mature trees. Glimpses of canal workshops and woodland from top. Wooded paddock on W side contributes to tranquil atmosphere but threatened by housing development proposals.



Area 4: Birch Road

Very clear transition from open countryside to dense urban grain as Birch road winds and narrows towards town centre. Main route into town from canal marina.



Designated January 1976, extended October 1985

Population 3,367

Ellesmere dates from Saxon times. The growth of the town in the medieval period was followed by decline in the late C15 and early C16. Dairying brought prosperity in the C17 followed by a further decline which was halted by the construction of the Llangollen Canal in the late C18 and early C19 when the town enjoyed a further period of prosperity. Ellesmere has been in slow economic decline since the end of the C19 and the resulting lack of modern development has contributed to the preservation of its historic built environment.