7 St Helens

7.1 Location and administration

The Metropolitan Borough of St Helens, one of five that make up Merseyside, covers an area of 136.9 km² (approximately 53 square miles) and extends approximately 16.3 km from its most northern to southern point and about 16.3 km east to west. St Helens is 19 km (12 miles) east of Liverpool and 37 km (23 miles) west of Manchester. The East Lancashire Trunk Road which links the two cities passes east-west through the Borough. The M62 runs to the south of the centre of the Borough, from Liverpool to Hull. The Borough is adjoined by the Metropolitan Districts of Knowsley (Merseyside) and Wigan (Greater Manchester), the District of West Lancashire (County of Lancashire), and the Unitary Districts of Warrington and Halton.

The current land use of the Borough is diverse, including urban development, agriculture, woodland and areas of wildlife interest. Approximately two-thirds of the Borough is countryside, most of which lies in the Merseyside Green Belt. Much of this land, particularly to the north of the Borough, is prime agricultural land. St Helens also supports a diverse collection of habitats; many wildlife sites are closely linked with the Borough's industrial heritage. It is classified by DEFRA as a Major Urban District mostly falling within DEFRA's definition of the Liverpool urban area. However, a sizeable 23.8% of the population lives in the rural areas.

The main areas of industrial and commercial land use are predominantly in the area to the south of the East Lancashire Road. These include industrial areas to the north of St Helens Town Centre at Gerards Bridge and Cowley Hill, to the south west at the Ravenshead Industrial Area and to the south at Abbotsfield Industrial Estate. Industrial areas to the east include Sankey Valley Industrial Park, Deacon trading Estate, Haydock Industrial Estate and the former Central Works.

The Borough also contains substantial areas of land affected by former mineral working activities.

Predominantly residential areas include areas surrounding St Helens Town Centre, Eccleston, Sutton, the well established settlements of Newton-le-Willows and Haydock and housing areas surrounding the village centres of Billinge, Rainford, Rainhill and

Garswood. Within the built up areas, there is a range of open spaces ranging from large formal parks to small playgrounds.

In 1868, St Helens was incorporated as a borough, before being made a county borough in 1889. As a county borough, it was, from 1889 to 1974, outside the administrative county of Lancashire but remained within the geographical county palatine.

The Metropolitan Borough of St Helens was formed on the 1st April 1974 as a merger of the former County Borough of St Helens with the urban districts of Haydock, Newton-le-Willows and Rainford and parts of Billinge-and-Winstanley and Ashton-in-Makerfield, along with part of Whiston Rural District.

Between 1974 and 1986 the Borough Council shared functions with the Merseyside County Council. Following 1986, the functions of this body were in part devolved to the boroughs and in part transferred to ad hoc agencies.

7.2 Geology and Topography

Solid Geology

The solid geology of St Helens is complex, being dominated by Upper Carboniferous (354-290 million years old) rocks forming the westernmost part of the Lancashire Coalfield. The sediments now forming these rocks were deposited on an extensive series of low-lying swampy river deltas built into shallow marine waters. The periodic flooding and building of the deltas along the coastline resulted in the deposition of a series of coals interspersed with thicker layers of shale, clay, sandstone and mudstone.[1]

The simplified order of strata is:

Permian and Triassic Strata	Wilmslow Sandstone Formation
	Chester Pebble Beds Formation
	Kinnerton Sandstone Formation
	Manchester Marls Formation
	Collyhurst Sandstone Formation
Carboniferous Strata	Westphalian D
	Westphalian C
	Westphalian B
	Westphalian A

The regional dip of the Carboniferous rocks is towards the south and southeast at an angle of 10° to 15°. The overlying Permo-Triassic Rocks dip in a similar direction but at an angle of approximately 5°. Folding and faulting affects all beds. The Westphalian strata underlying St Helens are dissected by major fault systems.

1. www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/geodiversity/englands/counties/area_ID23.aspx. Accessed 24th May 2010.

Carboniferous Strata

Within the St Helens area, Westphalian Strata dominate the area of outcrop of the Carboniferous Rocks. Grey mudstones with irregular beds of sandstone form the bulk of the Westphalian Strata up to and including the Westphalian C. Westphalian A to Westphalian C rocks are collectively known as the "Productive Coal Measures". Westphalian D (Ardwick Group) comprises a lower sequence of red and green mudstones with grey limestone, sandstone and occasional coals. Rocks of Millstone Grit occur in a small area in the north around Billinge.

Permian Strata

To the east of the Borough the Collyhurst Sandstone, a yellow aeolian sand, overlies the Westphalian Strata. It is in turn overlain by the Manchester Marl, which is a mudstone unit. There is a small outcrop of Collyhurst Sandstone around Sutton. The lower boundary of the Kinnerton Sandstone Formation is transitional with the Manchester marl Formation and consists mainly of a red-brown fine to medium grained sandstone with beds of coarser well rounded sand grains.

Triassic Strata

Permian rocks are succeeded in the east by thick sandstones of the Sherwood Sandstone Group. The Sherwood Sandstone Group may be divided into four major units, as follows;

i) Kinnerton Sandstone Formation
ii) Chester Pebble Beds Formation
iii) Wilmslow Sandstone Formation
iv) Helsby Sandstone Formation overlies the Wilmslow Sandstone Formation to the south of the River Mersey

The youngest Pre-Pleistocene rocks exposed in the St Helens area are the Triassic Chester Pebble Beds and Wilmslow Sandstone Formation. The Chester Pebble Beds outcrop over much of the south part of the Borough, consisting of medium to coarse grained sandstones with rounded pebble inclusions. The Wilmslow Sandstone Formation consists predominantly of fine to medium grained sandstones and does not

outcrop in the area due to the cover of drift deposits. It is however known to underlie parts of the extreme south-eastern corner of the Borough, to the west of Bold Heath.

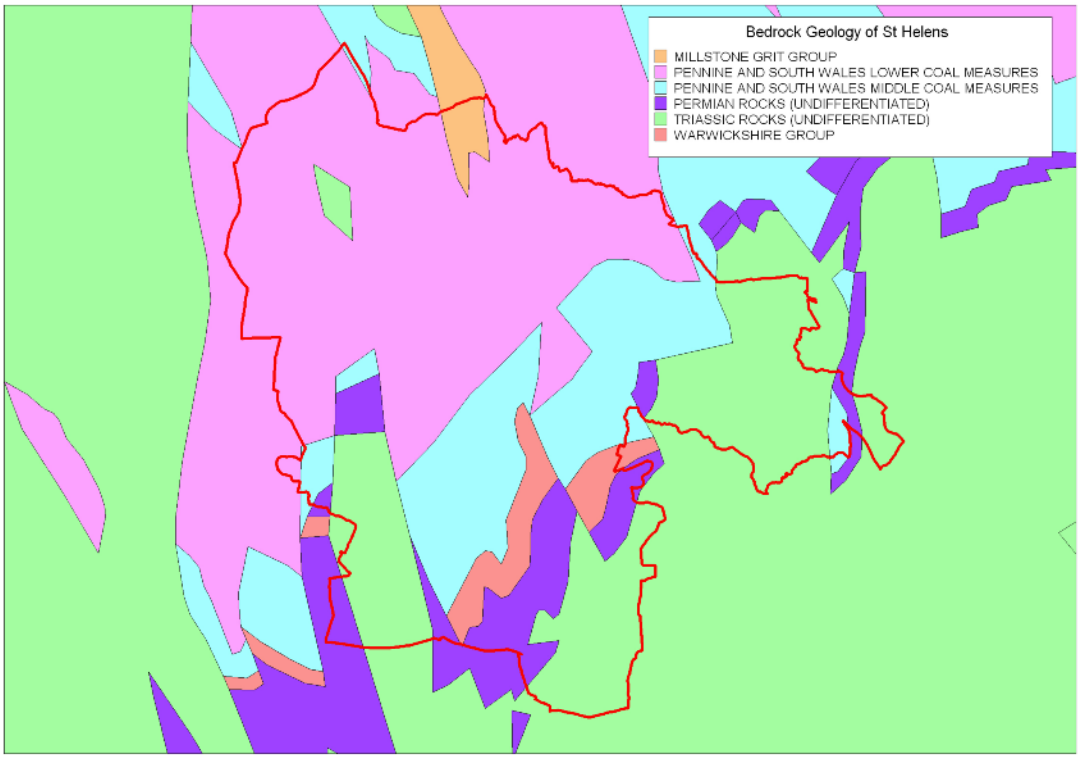

Figure 7 Bedrock Geology of St Helens
Based upon DiGMapGB-625 data 1: 625 000 ESRI® (Bedrock deposits) with the permission of the British Geological Survey. (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

Superficial Geology

Much of the natural landscape of the area has been shaped by the processes of the Pleistocene glaciations. With the exception of a few areas of outcrop, the solid bedrock is overlain by a variable thickness of glacial drift throughout the Borough. Glacial deposition has occurred either within the troughs or on the plains between them. Deposition in the north and central areas consists of melt out till of grey-brown and stony sandy clays with occasional gravels with an average thickness of 0 to 10 m. To the south of the area till is typically brown stony sandy clay with thin layers of sand and gravel. The average thickness of this till layer is 10 to 25 m. The glacial drift is

thicker (up to 35 m) within the Sankey trough, a buried bedrock valley broadly consistent with the existing course of Sankey Brook.

Small isolated patches of sand and gravel occur north of the River Mersey. The main occurrence in the St Helens area are west of Eccleston Park and to the south of Rainhill.

A widespread belt of windblown sand (Shirdley Hill sand) covers the underlying glacial deposits and bedrock over parts of the central area of the Borough and an extensive but discontinuous area to the north. The Shirdley Hill Sands were important in the glass-making industry of St Helens during the 19th and early 20th century.

Recent deposits include peats overlying impermeable glacial deposits, bedrock and the Shirdley Hill Sand Formation, notably at Moss Farm and Parr Moss. Alluvium occurs in several valley floors, for example Sankey and Sutton Brooks, and consisting of water lain clays, silts, sands and gravels.

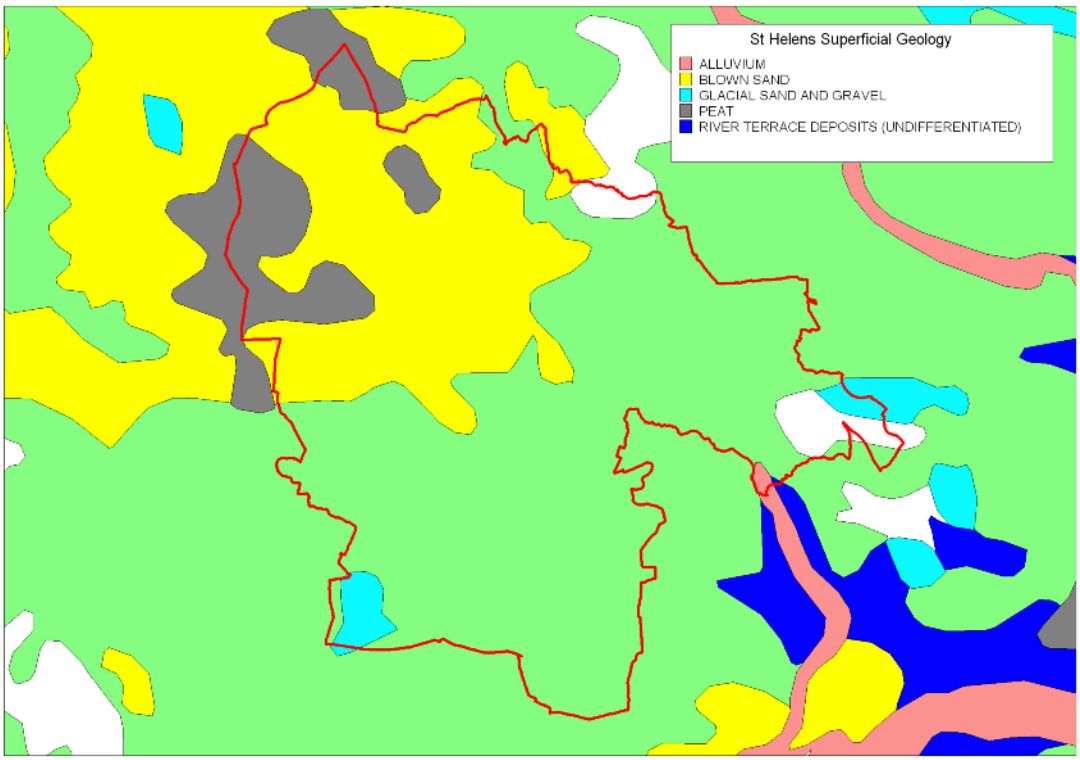

Figure 8 Superficial Geology of St Helens
Based upon DiGMapGB-625 data 1: 625 000 ESRI® (Superficial deposits) with the permission of the British Geological Survey (© Crown Copyright and database right 2003. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100019088. English Heritage).

7.3 St Helens – Social and Economic Development

Although the first reference to St Helens (the Chapel of St Helens) was found in a document of 1552, it is possible that the original structure dated back to the 14th century. The chapel is thought to be responsible for attracting a small settlement of farms and houses within its reach. Evidence for this early hamlet is limited to archaeological discoveries in 1956, when two wells and grain pounders thought to belong to an old farm were uncovered. The present Church of St Helen is a relatively modern structure, built between 1916 and 1926, presumed situated near the site of the early chapel.

Prior to the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, the predominant activities in the area were likely to have comprised farming and small-scale peat and coal working. Coal was first documented as being mined in Sutton in the 16th Century, though there is a possibility that pits had been dug in the area many years previously.

Year	Population 10 years earlier	Current Total Population
1801		13,733
1811	13,733	15,939
1821	15,939	17,841
1831	17,841	22,189
1841	22,189	29,795
1851	29,795	39,221
1861	39,221	55,253
1871	55,253	71,285
1881	71,285	87,317
1891	87,317	106,009
1901	106,009	123,585
1911	123,585	144,077
1921	144,077	151,149
1931	151,149	158,589
1941	158,589	165,191
1951	165,191	172,119
1961	172,119	180,214

1971	180,214	188,689
1981	188,689	189,245
1991	189,245	180,895
2001	180,895	176,845

Table 5 Population Change in St Helens District 1801 to 2001 (Source: Vision of Britain - www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

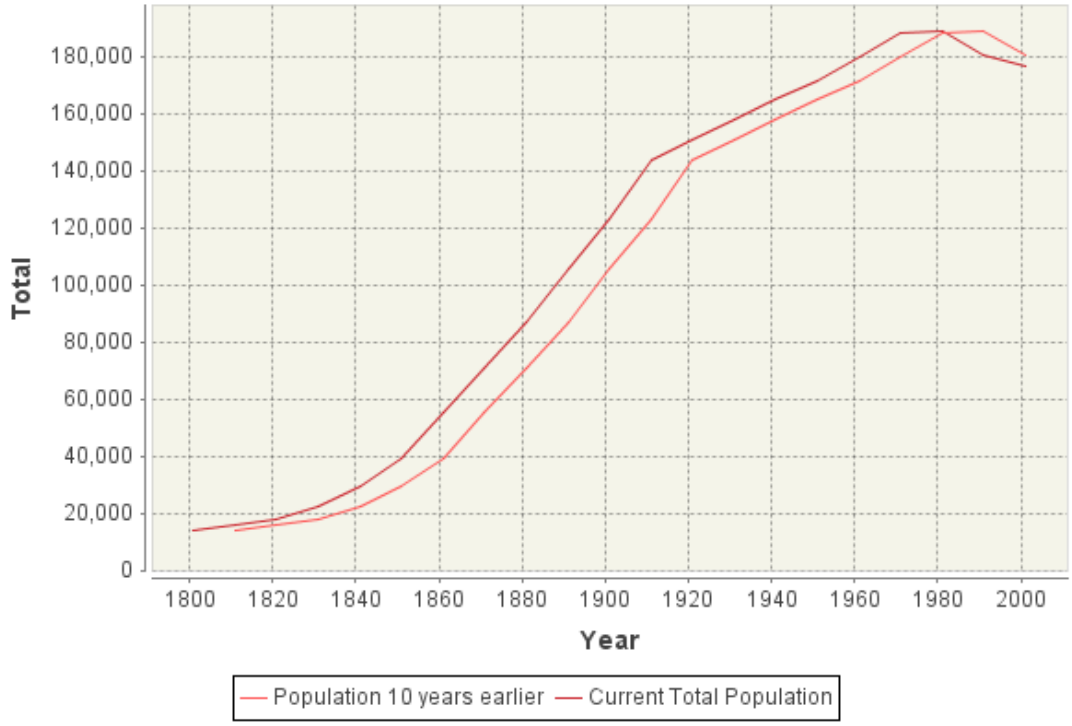

Figure 9 St Helens Population for the years 1801 to 2001
(Source: Vision of Britain. www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

In 1801 there were fewer than 14,000 people in the St Helens area, with much of the population located within St Helens Town Centre, although sizeable populations could be found in the smaller, outlying settlements of Rainford, Billinge, Rainhill, Thatto Heath, Sutton, Garswood, Haydock and Newton-le-Willows. The 19th century witnesses a vast growth in industry and population but unfortunately brought associated housing and social problems. Although attempts were made to resolve some of these issues a solution proved elusive as the town lacked any cohesive administration. Matters were improved in 1845 by the establishment of the St Helens Improvement Commission - an early form of local government established to combat some of the social ills of bad housing, drainage, provision of water and many other issues. During the mid-19th century, St Helens exhibited a surge in population growth,

notably in the period 1851 to 1871 (from 29,795 to 55,253). This steep rise coincides with the development of St Helens as a significant industrial town, supported by improved transport routes and infrastructure. St Helens population grew nearly 9 times over the 19th century as coal mining, chemicals and glass production put the town on the map. In 1868 St Helens Town became a municipal borough which consolidated the role of local government. In 1885 the town elected its first Member of Parliament.

The 20th century brought many changes, especially with the loss of most of the districts heavy industry and the closure of many coal mines. Between 1911 and 1921, although the actual total population gradually increased from 123,585 to 144,077, the actual rate of population change fell dramatically from 20492 to 7072. This decrease can, in part, be explained by the outbreak (and immediate aftermath) of the First World War - with the mass movement and loss of men during the conflict, and the effects of the subsequent Spanish Flu pandemic. However, the economic uncertainty following the First World War, with the closure of heavy industry in the area, would have had a detrimental effect on population growth. It is interesting to note, however, that coal mining activity in the area increased (the actual number of individuals employed) until a high point in the 1930s.

After 1931, the number of people employed in the extractive industry fell (from 14754 in 1931 to 7886 in 1951), illustrating the demise of the coal industry (and other extractive industries) in the area. There was a corresponding, though to a much lesser degree, fall in the number employed in the agricultural industry (from 1746 in 1931 to 1451 in 1951). The falls within these two industries can be contrasted against rises in other industries; with many people either moving away from the area or possibly diversifying or switching trades. As the mining industry declined, there was a corresponding increase in manufacturing (16518 in 1931 to 22105 in 1951), utilities (5,800 in 1931 to 19260 in 1951) and service (17065 in 1931 to 24353 in 1951) industries. The actual rate of population changed remained steady until the 1970s, when there was another rapid decline. Between 1971 and 1981, the rate of population change went from 8475 to 556, with a corresponding lag-decrease in the total population from189245 to 180895 in the period 1981 to 1991. During the period 1971 to 2001, the mining industry has virtually disappeared (from 3180 in 1971 to 75 in 2001). During this period, there were corresponding decreases in the majority of heavy industries, with manufacturing appearing to have decreased the most (from

40320 in 1971 to 12804 in 2001). The only activities exhibiting a sustained growth are the services (28,720 in 1971 to 45146 in 2001) and construction (4650 in 1971 to 5301 in 2001) industries.

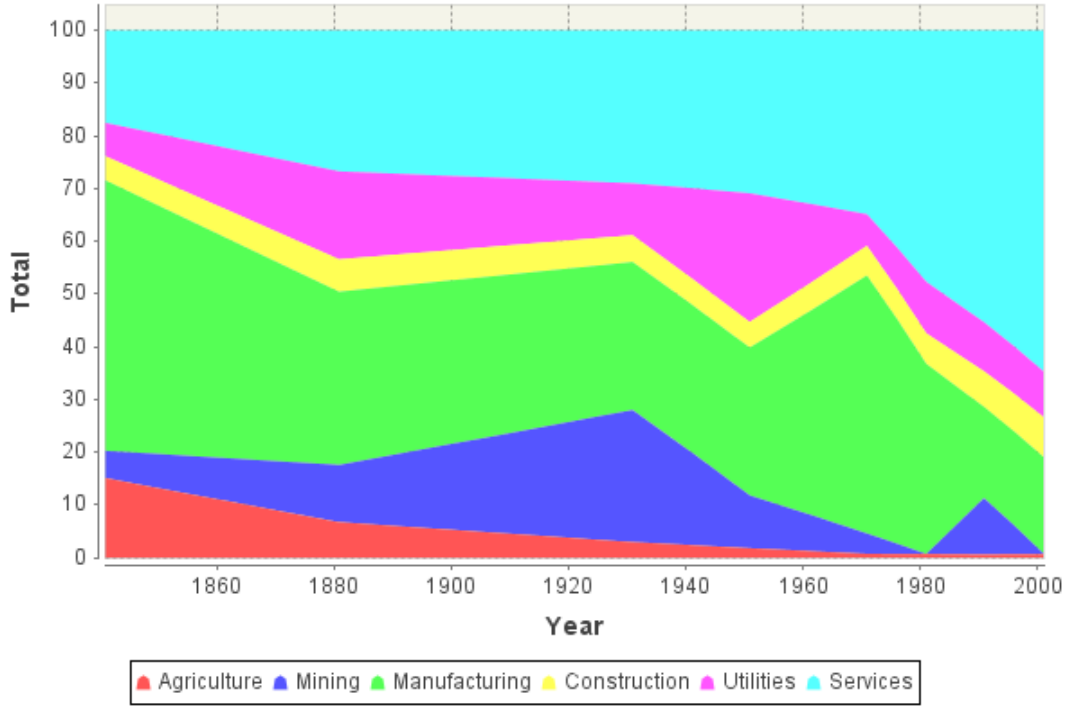

Figure 10 Standardised Industry Data for St Helens, in the period 1841 to 2001 (Source: Vision of Britain - www.visionofbritain.org.uk)

As recently as the 1970s, St Helens was a highly industrialised town, particularly dependent on glassmaking (Pilkington's and other firms), but also coal mining and other manufacturing industry (e.g. chemicals and pharmaceuticals manufacture). At their peaks, coal mining and glass manufacture between them employed around 50,000 people (mainly men) in St Helens, or well over half the workforce. The fall in employment in key sectors from the 1970s through to the early 1990s led to loss of over 20,000 jobs (between 1978 and 1995), with most of the fall occurring in the early 1980s. By 2000, employment in the core glass sector had fallen to just over 2,000 jobs.

Local government boundaries were radically changed in 1974, when the old borough of St Helens was enlarged to become St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council. The new Metropolitan Borough incorporated many of the old Lancashire urban districts, some of which were of greater antiquity than St Helens. Newton-le-Willows contains the remains of a Roman road, and appears to have been a market town as early as 1258. Haydock was first mentioned in a document of 1169, similarly Rainford was first

recorded in 1190. Rainhill, to the south of St Helens Town, was formerly an agricultural community that can be traced back to at least 1256.

The industrial heritage of St Helens includes numerous collieries, the extraction of other minerals (including glass sand, sand and gravel, marl, clay and sandstones and pebble beds), glass works, copper smelting, alkali manufacture, and iron works. Other activities which are known to have taken place in the Borough include: brewing, pottery-making, asbestos manufacture and town gas production. Whilst providing significant economic growth, many of these industries had the potential to have caused contamination of the land they occupied. Furthermore, the majority of these industries produced waste materials which were deposited either on the ground or in former mineral working, together with the refuse from the growing urban population. Many of today's rough land or derelict sites that surround St Helens Town are the product of former industrial activity.

The total population of St Helens was estimated to be 177,600 in 2006, according to mid-year estimates based on the 2001 census. St Helens accounts for 13.1% of the population of Merseyside and 2.6% of the North West region (St Helens Council et al, 2008 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for St Helens). Between 1981 and 1991, the Borough witnessed a 5.5% population decline and a further 1.1% drop between 1991 and 2001. Current estimates (2008) highlight that the age structure of population within St Helens is similar to national averages, although St Helens has a smaller proportion of people aged 15-44 compared with both national and regional figures, and a great proportion in the 65-74 age band and slightly less people aged over 75. The age structure of the St Helens' population has changed over the past ten years (2008). Within St Helens, 16.3% of the population are aged over 65, an increase of 1.1% on the 1996 figures. The aging population is set to continue, with projections suggesting that the population of St Helens will continue to rise at a faster rate than national averages (St Helens Council et al, 2008). The under-19 population is predicted to fall significantly over the period 2006-15, especially in the 10-14 and 15-19 age bands, as is the middle-aged 35-44 population. However, significant increases are estimated for those in their early 20s and early 30s (20-34), late 40s and early 50s (45-54) and the over 65s (Ibid).

8 The Historic Character of St Helens

8.1 An Overview of St Helens' Historic Character

About 48.3% (6607.32 ha) of St Helens has been classified as **Field System**. Much of this is concentrated in the north, south and extreme eastern parts of the district. The central and centre-east parts of the district are predominantly residential and/or industrial in nature. In general, field systems have declined in number and size from the mid 19th century, having been replaced (consumed) by industrial and residential growth. The earliest enclosure identified in St Helens is thought to have originated in the post medieval period (*c*. 1500-1750 AD). Much of the land is made up of piecemeal enclosure formed in the 17th to 19th centuries, surveyed enclosure formed in the mid to late 19th century, and agglomerated fields formed in the later 20th century. The regular, predominantly small-sized surveyed enclosure fields in the north-western part of the district represent former mossland that has been drained and improved. There are some areas where earlier enclosure patterns are still visible within the landscape, including pockets of piecemeal enclosure and small but significant areas of former small, semi-regular open fields to the north, west and southwest of the Borough. Areas of late post medieval and early modern surveyed enclosure have also survived.

Within St Helens there are nearly 2789 ha of land in **Residential** use, representing 20.49% of the current St Helens study area. The St Helens property type is skewed towards Semi-Detached and terraced houses and bungalows and to a lesser extent detached houses. The stock of flats is fairly low and the majority are in the social sector. (St Helens Housing Market & Needs Assessment, 2006). The current Residential Broad Type is dominated by one housing type; Semi-Detached Housing at just over 43% (1202.06 ha). This is followed by Modern Housing Developments (23.09% - 643.88 ha), Terraced Housing (13.87% - 386.74 ha) and Detached Housing (13.38% - 372.97 ha). The majority of housing stock dates to the post-1945 period at just under 69% (1922.21 ha), followed housing dating the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period at just over 15% (421.94 ha) and then Inter War (1918 to 1939) housing at just over 12% (340.45 ha).

The housing stock of St Helens appears concentrated in eight very loose blocks, some as distinct settlements with historic cores (Rainford, Rainhill, Billinge, Sutton, Haydock and Newton-le-Willows) and the remainder as large-scale development surrounding the historic core of St Helens Town.

Residential development is St Helens appears to have occurred in tandem with industrial development. The Ordnance Survey 6" First Edition map of Lancashire, 1850 shows a fairly dispersed settlement pattern, with limited clustering or agglomeration of housing in the established historic cores of Rainford, Billinge, St Helens, Rainhill, Sutton and Newton-le-Willows. Ribbon development at this time appears to have been limited, with settlements in the main located adjacent to major roads (turnpike road) and not along railway routes. From the mapping, the most notable ribbon development was at Haydock. The largest (by area) character type was Private Estate (118 polygons in 1850).

The predominant housing type was Detached Housing (808 polygons), being found throughout the district with some agglomeration in historic cores (notably in Billinge, St Helens, Haydock and Newton-le-Willows). Likewise, Farmhouses (300 polygons in 1850) were evenly scattered throughout the district. However, there was a noticeable lack of farmhouses in the central part of the district - in the industrial heartlands of St Helens. Even by this early period, there appears to have been a wholesale removal of farm buildings by large-scale industrial activity (mainly coal mines). Further gaps are also evident, notably in the southeast (Private Estate land), extreme north (Rough Land Moss), northwest (Rough Land Moss) and the extreme east of the district (Private Estate land and Rough Land Moss).

Terraced Housing (204 polygons in 1850) was limited to a few areas - the majority found within the industrial core of St Helens, closely associated with industry and also alongside communication routes (roads). Small-scale terraced housing developments occurred alongside communication routes and near established industrial sites (for example Vulcan Village). At this time, Semi-Detached housing (38 polygons in 1850) was almost non-existent.

By 1893 (Ordnance Survey 25" map of Lancashire,1893) the number of Terraced Houses had increased (by polygon count), with much of this concentrated towards the north of the historic core of St Helens Town (around Denton's Green, Green Bank and

Cowley Hill), but also noticeable clustering in Sutton, Parr and Thatto Heath (serving the local coal and glass industries). Terraced housing was sited close to, or sometimes actually within, industrial areas, and also adjacent to major communications lines. By 1893, ribbon development is primarily concentrated on the railways and, to a lessening degree, the roads. There was also a 'new town' development at Earlestown, near Newton-le-Willows - closely associated with the nearby Viaduct Iron Foundry, Vitriol Chemical Works and the Sankey Sugar Works.

By 1893, there appears to have been a reduction in the number and size of Private Estates - although the actual estate houses were being left as they were (in some cases extended), much of their former parklands were being sold off and converted to more profitable agricultural use. However, there was an increase in the number of detached housing (770 polygons in 1893), and the appearance of villa housing (17 polygon in 1893) during the Victorian period, with many large-scale developments being founded in rural areas away from the industrial heartlands or within more affluent historic cores (Eccleston Park and Rainhill). The number of Semi-Detached housing sites had also increased by 1893 to 153 polygons.

Terraced Housing had reached its peak by 1939, with most of it built immediately next to already established terraced housing to the north of St Helens Town Centre. Further ribbon development occurred at Blackbrook and Haydock, along the main road linking St Helens with Aston-in-Makerfield. There was also further ribbon development along major railway lines, particularly at Wargrave, to the south of Newton-le-Willows.

The Inter War period also saw the development of large-scale Semi-Detached housing sites to the west of St Helens Town Centre. The development, in the form of a broad and very fragmentary band (or zone) stretched from Mossbank and Haresfinch in the north, through Windlehurst and Newtown, and down to Grange Park and Eccleston Park in the southwest.

Post-war development saw the continuing rise of Semi-Detached housing, with further expansion of the western residential zone established in the Inter War period, and new developments to the northeast, east and southeast of St Helens Town Centre. Semi-Detached housing, in conjunction with later Modern Housing Developments, appears to encompass St Helens Town Centre, except for a small area to the south of

the town (the site of the former Ravenhead Glassworks and now Ravenhead Nature Park). Except for a few Modern Housing Developments, there is little housing within the St Helens core area. Aside from Commercial and Recreational land, much of the area, particularly that lying immediately either side of the Sankey Canal, has been industrial use from the mid 19th century onwards. Many apparently open areas suitable for development are former industrial sites - much of this Brownfield land is contaminated and/or unstable, unsuitable for development and has been left as Rough Land or converted into Recreational and Ornamental use.

Outside of St Helens, further Semi-Detached Housing blocks were established around the outlying historic cores, for instance in Rainford, Billinge, Garswood, Blackbrook and Haydock. To the south of St Helens, there has been residential growth (as Semi-Detached and Modern Housing Developments) surrounding Sutton, Sutton Leach, Marshall's Cross and Rainhill. Further east, there has also been a corresponding growth of modern housing surrounding Newton-le-Willows.

The Post-war years have also seen the gradual loss of Farmhouses (187 polygons on current mapping) and a more dramatic loss of Private Estate houses (2 polygons on current mapping). Here, the reduction of these character types is (in part) proportional to the growth of large-scale Semi-Detached and Modern Housing Developments - many farmsteads and former estate houses (and parklands) have been demolished to make way for these later housing types.

There are currently 214.95 ha of land assigned to the **Commercial** Broad Type, representing around 1.57% of the St Helens total. Many of the commercial MHCP types share characteristics such as the scale of buildings and sites and the types of locations in which they are generally to be found, and can be grouped together. Commercial activity is dominated by the Commercial Retail (44.32% - 95.27 ha) sector, followed by Business Parks (15.04% - 32.33 ha), Commercial Core (13.72% - 29.50 ha) and Retail Parks (13.65% - 29.34 ha). A large part of these Sub Types are contained within the central historic core of St Helens Town and, to a lesser extent the cores Newton-le-Willows, Rainford, Billinge and Rainhill. Commercial activity is also present as ribbon development along major transport routes, notably in Haydock.

The majority of pre-1900 Commercial buildings are concentrated in St Helens Town Centre, with a few others scattered around the district, located in historic cores - the

earliest commercial centres (from the MHCP) are located at Rainford, Billinge, Garswood, Newton-le-Willows and Rainhill.

Modern (post-1945) commercial buildings are found throughout the district, but there are noticeable concentrations of retail units and shops in St Helens Town Centre, Rainford, Rainhill and the western part of Newton-le-Willows. Modern Business and Retail Parks tend to be found on the outskirts of urban areas, located along current communication routes - for example at St Helens, Rainford, Haydock (New Boston), Lea Green and Bold. The majority of Business Parks have been constructed on greenfield sites and along major communications routes. Three large Retail Parks at Ravenhead Greenway have been built overlying former industrial sites.

The vast majority of the commercial Broad Type dates to the Later 20th century - approximately 68% (147 ha) belonging to this period. Later 20th and 21st century sites tend to be medium to large-scale developments (on average 0.69 ha). Earlier, pre-1900, commercial sites are comparatively small (0.43 ha).

Within St Helens there are 901.99 ha of **Industrial** land. This represents about 6.59% of the total area of St Helens. Industrial sites were identified on Current (203) mapping largely by their labels of 'Works' or 'Industrial Estate'. Trade directories and the internet were consulted when identifying the 'narrow' Industrial MHCP Sub Types. However, it was beyond the scope of the project to consult these sources for all of the industrial sites in the district. As the nature of the industry carried out could not be identified for a great many sites, a very high proportion of sites have been recorded simply as 'Industrial Works', making it difficult to make a meaningful analysis of the distribution of different types of industry. However, the proliferation of industrial estates and sites labelled 'Works' rather than with a specific industry infers areas of mixed industry that are more characteristic of modern times than of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Many sites are now occupied by a mix of industrial and commercial companies.

Ten principal Current (2003) MHCP types were identified for detailed analysis in St Helens on the basis of their presence in the landscape or their historical significance. A further historical MHCP Sub Type was also identified (Chemical Industry) but this does not form part of the Current St Helens character. In the past, however, this

industry, alongside other now defunct industries, would have played an important (integral) part in the development of St Helens.

The majority of St Helens current industrial sites are Industrial (34.06%), followed by Manufacturing (22.56%) and Disused Industry (12.91%) Sub Types. Of the current 901.99 ha of industrial land, 87.06% (785.27 ha) dates to the Later 20th century. The next largest industrial block dates to pre-1900, forming 8.53% (76.95 ha) of the current total.

Pre-1900 industrial sites are found throughout the district, with noticeable concentrations in and around the historic core of St Helens Town (predominantly glass industrial), Sutton (Industrial) and Marshall's Cross (Extraction Industry). Further pre-1900 sites occur at Pewfall near Haydock (currently a disused coal mine) and the Vulcan Village Industrial site (Iron Foundry and Manufacturing Industry). The location of Pre-1900 industries are closely associated with communication, transport and trade - initially, industrial activity was located alongside the Sankey Canal. Ribbon development occurred alongside the canal for some time, although the major focus of industrial development occurred immediately adjacent to the railway.

Early 20th century sites are, much like earlier industrial development, found in close association with transport routes. Many pre-1900 and early 20th century industrial sites are also associated with terraced housing of the same date.

Inter War sites are concentrated in the south of the district, surrounding the historic core of St Helens Town, often in association with large housing estates. These include a glass manufactory in Eccleston, manufacturing industry at Gerards Bridge, extraction industry at Marshall's Cross, and a sewage farm (Industrial Sub Type) at Broad Oak. Outside of St Helens Town, Inter War sites are restricted to a single Manufacturing site in Newton-le-Willows.

Later 20th century sites are found throughout the district, with noticeable concentrations along communication routes (predominantly railway, but also along the former Sankey Canal and major roads). Smaller-scale industries are found interspersed amongst earlier industries and residential areas, notably in St Helens Town Centre and Newton-le-Willows.

Many large-scale sites (as industrial parks) are sited on the fringes of both established (in the case of St Helens) and relatively new (Haydock) residential areas - in areas that were previously Greenfield (field system) land. Large-scale sites include modern refuse dumping areas on land formerly Rough Land (Holiday Moss, near Rainford) or Disused Industry (the former quarry site at Billinge Hill, near Billinge).The largest post-1945 industrial site are the Haydock Lane and Fishwicks Industrial Estates (combined) at approximately 92 ha.

The MHCP study found that the **Recreational and Ornamental** Broad Type accounted for 9.16% (1253.78 ha) of the St Helens total. The largest Sub Type (area and number of polygons) is Sports Grounds at just over 56% (704.46 ha) with the largest single sports type being golf courses. This is followed by Public Parks at just around 28% (346.93 ha) and large post-1945 nature reserves at approximately 8% (96.13 ha). Recreational and Ornamental Sub Types are found throughout the district, although there does seem a preponderance of small-scale sites within St Helens Town Centre or on the St Helens Town urban fringe. There are similar concentrations within the historic cores of Rainford, Rainhill and Newton-le-Willows. Many large-scale sports grounds (golf clubs) are located in rural or semi-rural areas.

The clear majority of the Recreational and Ornamental Sub Type dates to the post-1945 period, at just over 73% (918.57 ha). This is followed by sites dating to the Inter War period (1918 to 1939) at nearly 16% (199.21 ha), and then Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period sites at 8.38% (105.03 ha). Generally, pre-1900 Recreational and Ornamental sites are small-scale. Nearly 47% (49.19 ha) of the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) is composed on one large Sports Ground site - Haydock Park Horse Racing Course. Historically, the number (and corresponding area) of certain character types has increased - most notably for Sports Grounds and Public Parks.

Within St Helens there are 358.51 ha of land which contains the **Civil** Broad Type. This represents around 2.62% of the total St Helens area. Civil establishments are evenly dispersed throughout the district, with the largest ones (by individual size) tending to be educational institutions, hospitals and cemeteries. The majority of records date to the Later 20th century (1946 to 2000) at 64.27% - 230.30 Ha, followed

by Inter War (1918 to 1939) sites at 20.58% (73.77 ha) and then Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) sites at 13.93% - 49.90 Ha. The majority of pre-1900 sites are small-scale, comprising places of worship, schools, cultural buildings, cemeteries and hospitals. The majority of post-1945 sites are schools.

Within St Helens, the **Communications** Broad Type covers 280.43 ha of land, representing roughly 2% of the total area. St Helens contains a number of communication features that were established before 1850. These include important turnpike roads that have lead to urban and industrial development. The main 19th century railways have generally survived as linear features although the nature of their usage has changed in the 20th century. Disused lines have tended to survive as footpaths or walkways within public parks, with only minimal redevelopment taking place. Industrial railways, sidings and colliery tramways do tend to have been lost. Not recorded on the current mapping is an important, but no-longer used communication route - the Sankey (or St Helens) Canal. The most prominent communications features in modern St Helens are the East Lancashire Road (established in the Inter War period) and the motorways, with the M62 running west to east and crossing the southern part of St Helens, and the M6 running northwest to southeast.

One hundred and twenty-four **Water Bodies** (polygons) were recorded as current character areas in St Helens, equating to eighty-five separate artificial (reservoirs, mill dams and man-made lakes) and thirty-five separate natural or semi-natural (ponds and streams) sites. Water bodies constituted 1.34% (182.86 ha) of the St Helens MHCP Study Area. Artificial Water Body formed 88.9% (162.56 ha) of the Broad Type, while and Natural Water Body constituted 11.1% (20.30 ha).

The majority of Water Bodies date to the Industrial Revolution 2 (1836 to 1900) period. All Natural Water Body, and 54.47% (88.54 ha) of Artificial Water Body, belong to this period. Reservoirs, mill dams and man-made lakes form the majority of pre-1900 Artificial Water Body. Early 20th century Water Bodies are restricted to the southwest of the district as enlargements of earlier (19th century) reservoirs. Later 20th century Water Bodies include further reservoir enlargement and the re-establishment of former watercourses (as recreational water bodies). The Artificial Water Body Sub Type includes re-opened sections of the St Helens (Sankey) Canal.

The **Other Land** Broad Type forms 0.01% (1.92 ha) of the St Helens total. Five separate sites were identified - all of them apparently car parks dating to the later 20th century, constructed on former character types (usually demolished Residential or Industrial land). They comprise: a car park to the rear of the Red Cat Hotel in Crank (representing a Commercial extension onto former Field System); a car park site in Rainhill (formerly Terraced Residential); and three sites in Newton-le-Willows (constructed on former Terraced Residential, Civil and Industrial Land).

From the MHCP study, the **Woodland** Broad Type comprises 3.55% (486.54 ha) of the current St Helens area. Historically, much of the area was heathland and mossland, and this, combined with the Mersey Estuary, restricted travel and settlement. A large part of the land north of the Mersey was within the Forest of West Derby (James 1981). Names such as Simonswood and Burtonwood have their origins from this time although the forest itself disappeared quite early in the history of British forests.

Extant Woodland is found throughout the district, with a noticeable concentration in the north, encircling St Helens Town. There is a distinct grouping of Plantation Woodland in the southeast of the district (surrounding Bold) and a group of Forestry and Plantation Woodland in the vicinity of Haydock Park. There is a noticeable absence of woodland in the urban centre (the residential, commercial and industrial core of St Helens Town) and to the east (Newton-le-Willows). However, it must be stressed that the Current MHCP Woodland (recorded or depicted) does not represent the sum total of woodland in St Helens. Large plots of woodland have been recorded using other MHCP Character Broad and Sub Types - for instance, as Recreational and Ornamental Sub Types (Nature Reserves, Public Parks and Sports Grounds) or as Residential Sub Types (Private Estate).

The largest Sub Type (as a group) is the ubiquitous Woodland at 34.73% (168.94 ha), followed by Forestry and Plantation at 26.33% (128.13 ha) and the closely related Plantation at 25.5% (124.06 ha). Managed Woodland accounts for 7.39% (35.97 ha).

There are four Ancient Woodlands present in St Helens, comprising 4.79% (23.30 ha) of the current Woodlands total. The related Curved Edged Woodland comprises 1.26% (6.14 ha). Many current woodland sites have origins well before 1850 (i.e. it is depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" map of Lancashire, 1850). Pre-1900

woodland constitutes around 79% of all woodland recorded in the St Helens MHCP Study Area. Early 20th century and Inter War sites constitute only 6.16% of the total, the majority of these as plantations to the immediate north of St Helens Town Centre, particularly around Moss Bank and Clinkham Wood. Later 20th century woodlands are somewhat restricted - found in two groups to the north (Windle) and south (Lea Green and Sutton Manor) of St Helens.

The **Rough Land** Broad Type constitutes around 591 Ha, approximately 4.32% of the land in St Helens. The majority of the Rough Land Broad Type is made up by Other Land (Rough Land) at around 94% (556.04 ha).

The majority of the Rough Land Broad Type was created in the post-1945 period (approximately 77% - 452.88 ha) as the result of demolition and clearance, particularly of past industrial (extractive and glassmaking), communications (railway) and residential sites. The nest largest block (13.3% - 78.59 ha) dates to the Inter War period, and primarily comprises scrub and derelict land. Rough Land has gradually increased during the period 1850 to 2001 as more-and-more sites have become either derelict or considered open space. However, the figure is expected to fall as many rough land sites are currently being transformed - regenerated as nature parks and community woodland schemes.

In St Helens, the **Defence** Broad Type contains two Sub Type characters - Camp and Defence Other. Within St Helens there are 4.63 ha of Defence land, representing about 0.03% of the total area. The St Helens MHCP Study Area currently contains two sites of Defence (Military) Broad Type - a later 20th century Territorial Army Centre in Green Bank, St Helens and an Inter War site (currently disused) at South Lane Farm, Bold Heath.

8.2 St Helens - Statistical Data and Mapping

St Helens Broad Types	1850 (hectares)	1893 (hectares)	1939 (hectares)	Current 2003 (hectares)
Industrial	306.47	709.25	894.56	901.99
Residential	1134.97	1037.26	1270.6	2788.49
Field System	10979	10240.3	9281.4	6607.32
Woodland	398.89	537.62	561.49	486.54
Rough Land	418.33	354.98	411.39	590.77
Civil	34.9	124.61	229.03	358.51
Defence	0	15.08	4.83	4.63
Commercial	52.06	67.56	72.95	214.95
Communication	134.67	219.39	279.96	280.43
Recreational and Ornamental	53.52	159.83	445.08	1253.78
Water Bodies	85.18	132.16	146.75	182.86
Coastal	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	1.95

Table 6 St Helens Broad Character Types

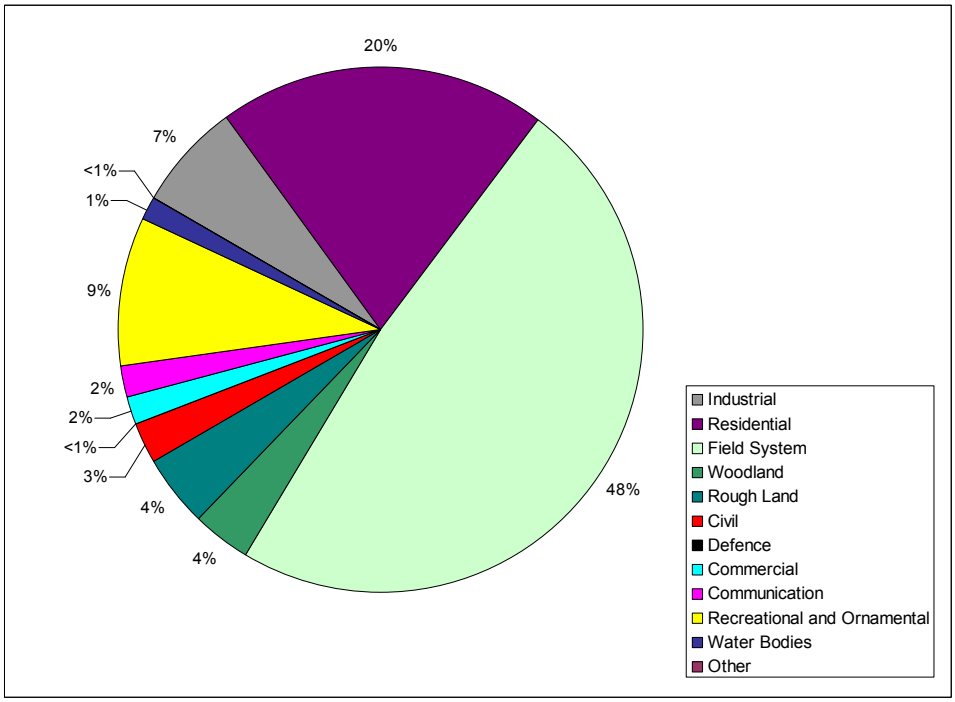

Figure 11 Pie chart showing Current (2003) Broad Types in St Helens (% of land)

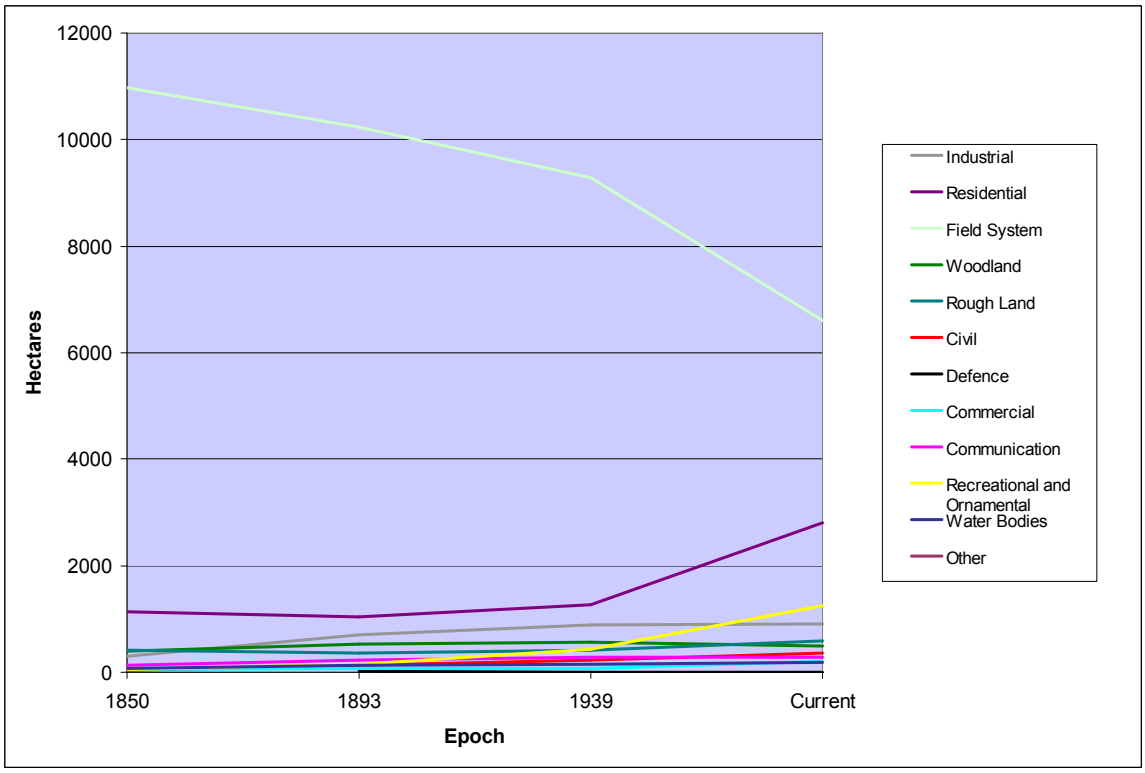

Figure 12 Graphical Representation of St Helens Broad Types through time

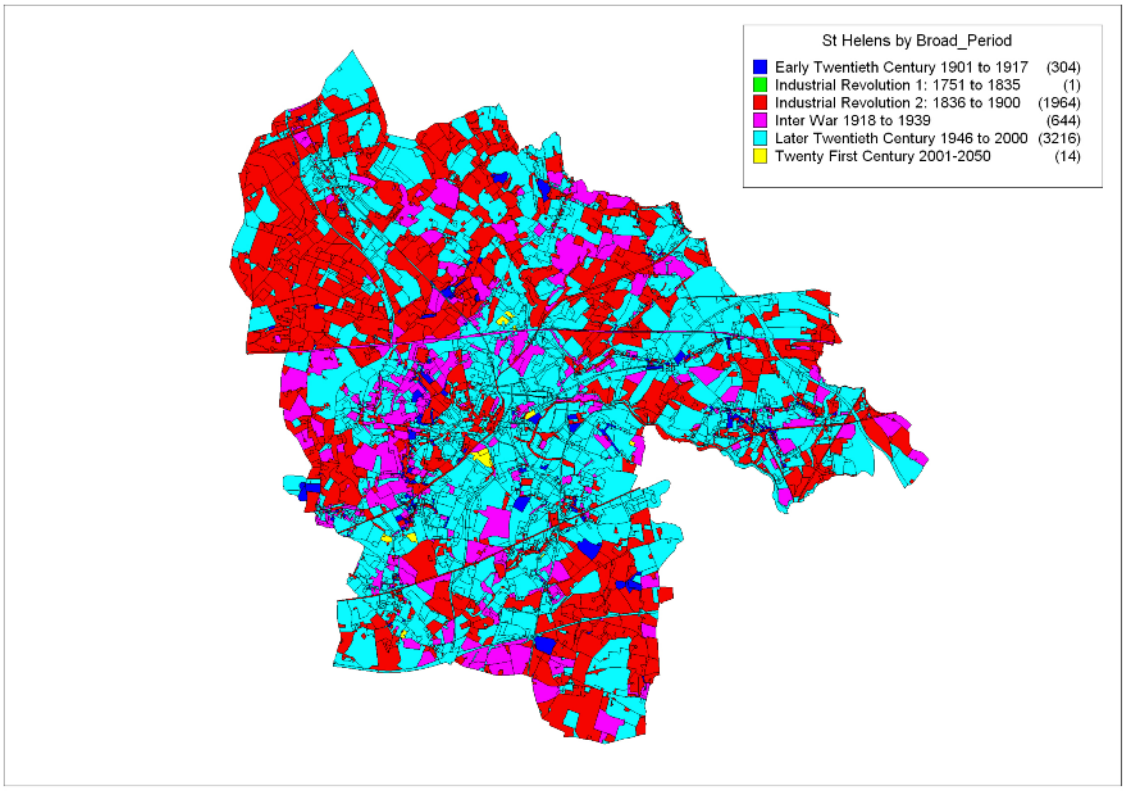

Figure 13 St Helens by Broad Period of origin

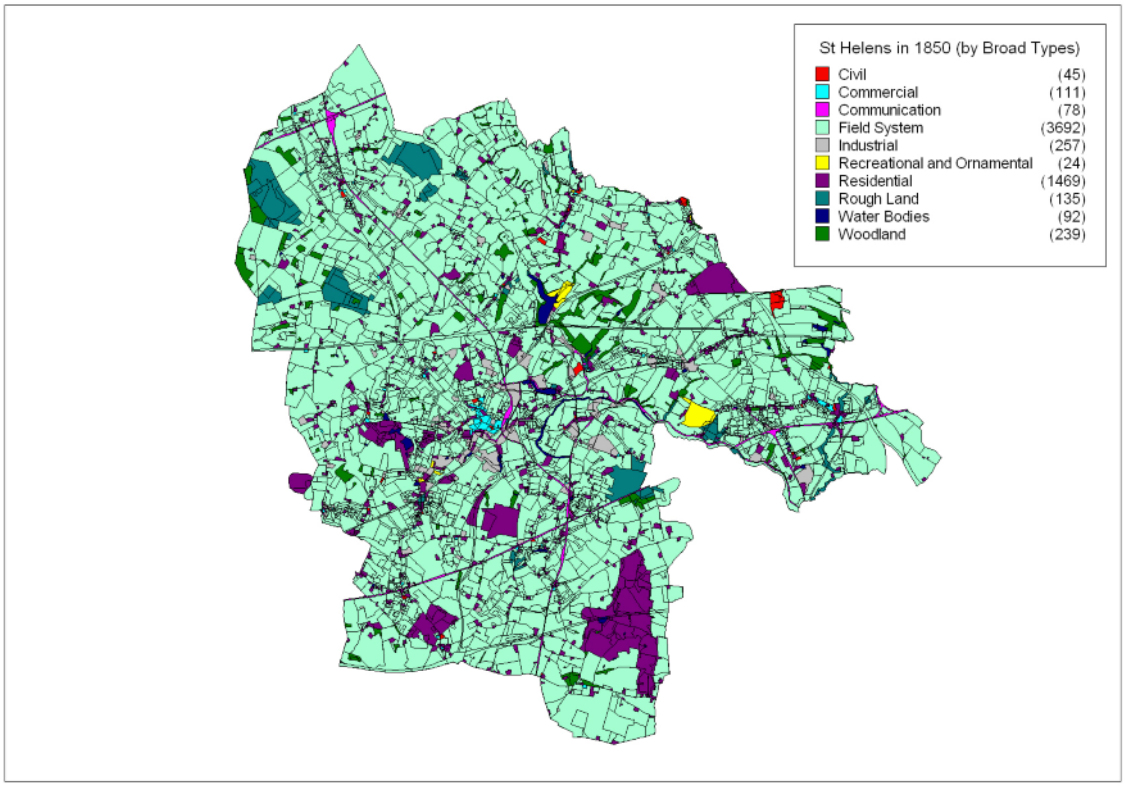

Figure 14 St Helens Characterisation in 1850

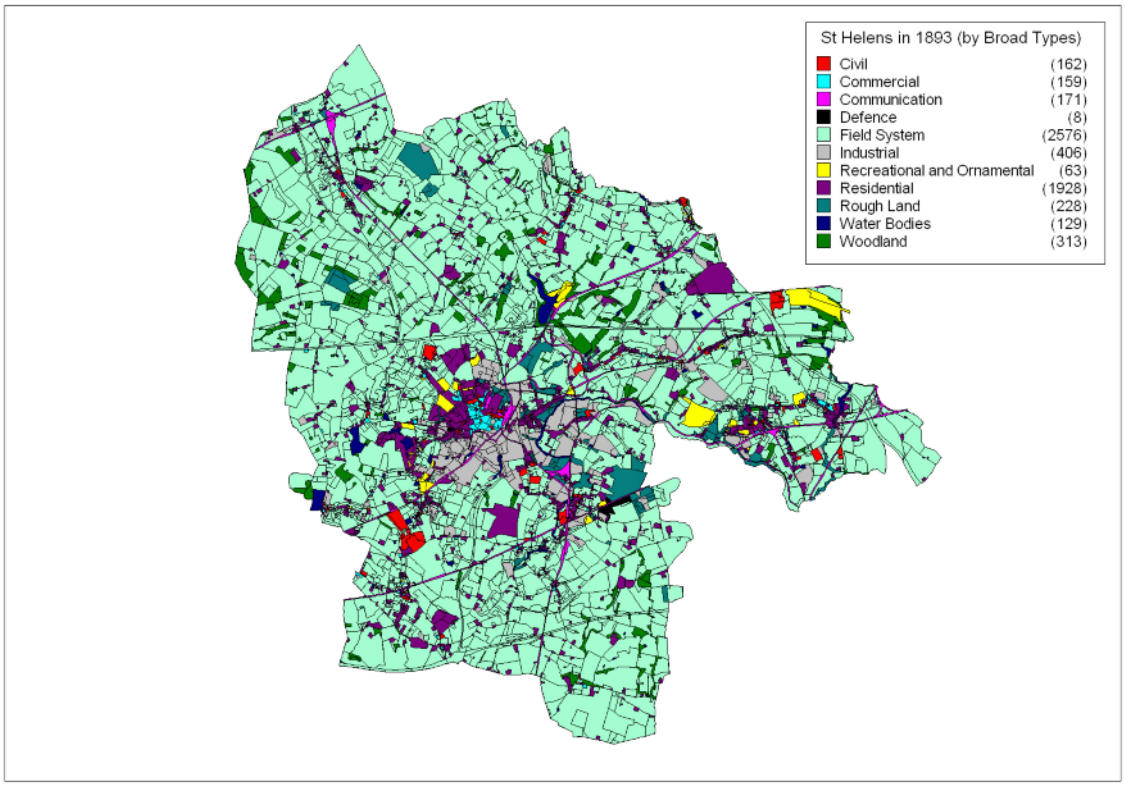

Figure 15 St Helens Characterisation in 1893

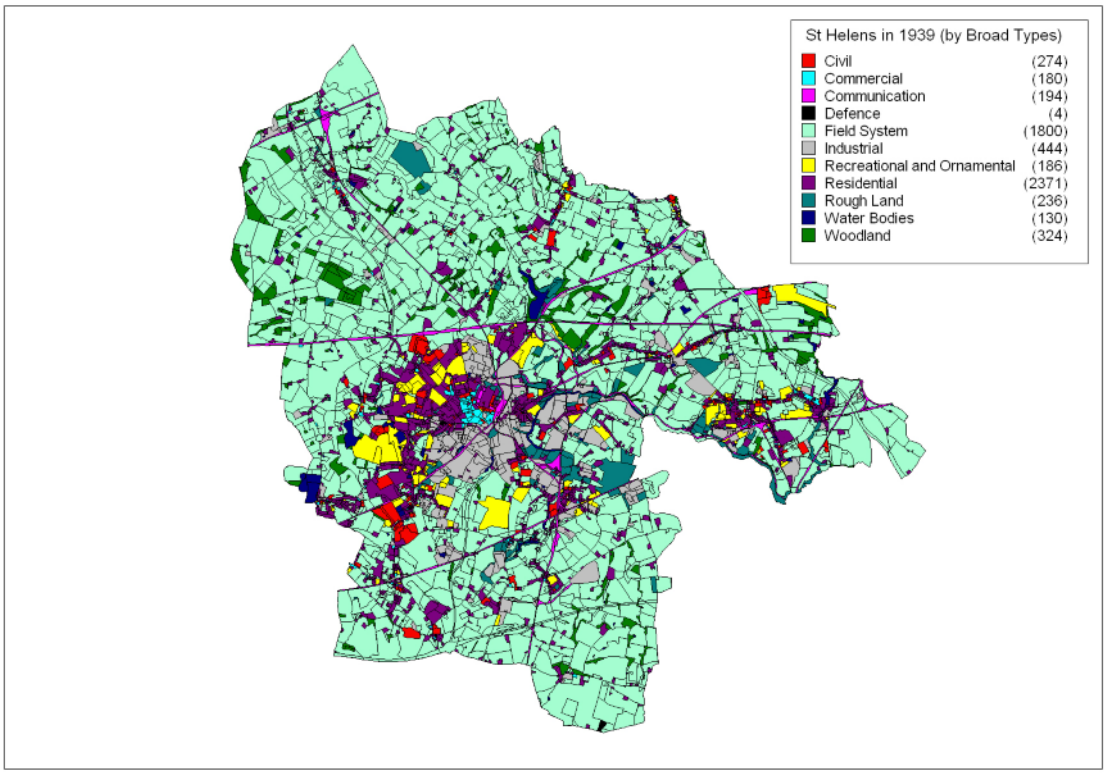

Figure 16 St Helens Characterisation in 1939

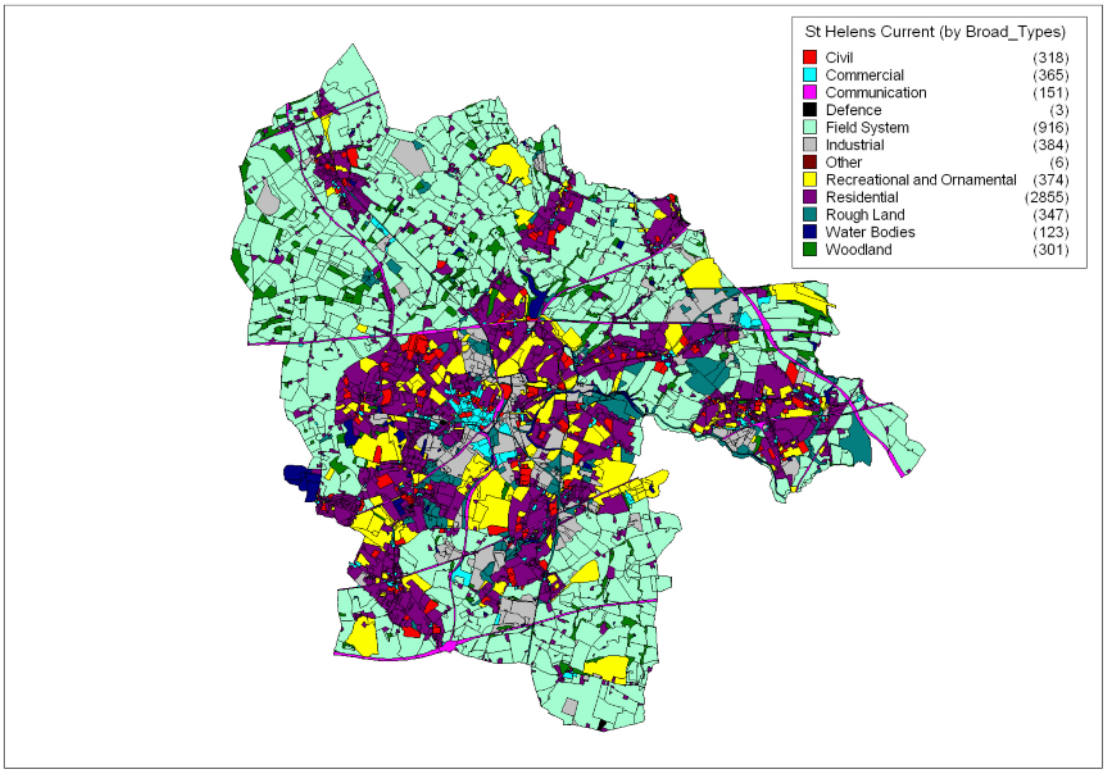

Figure 17 St Helens Characterisation Current (2003) Mapping

Table 7 Sub Type Characterisation for St Helens from 1850, 1893, 1939 and Current (2003) (Hectares)

St Helens Sub Type	1850	1893	1939	2003
Airfield	0	0	0	0
Allotment Gardens	2.58	6.00	73.87	29.96
Ancient Woodland	23.72	23.30	23.30	23.30
Artificial Water Body	62.81	110.68	125.51	162.56
Barracks	0	0	0	0
Business Park	0	0	0	32.33
Camp	0	0	3.10	3.10
Canal	30.02	30.02	28.93	0
Cemetery	0.71	13.68	17.64	28.76
Chemical Industry	14.41	67.03	52.13	
College/University	0	0	0	11.40
Commercial Core	27.56	32.41	30.34	29.50
Commercial Core (Office)	0	0	0	2.12
Commercial Core (Retail)	24.50	35.01	42.47	95.27
Council Housing	0	0	0	0
Crematorium	0	0	0	0
Cultural	0	1.63	7.03	14.30
Curved Edged Woodland	6.14	6.14	6.14	6.14
Deer Park	15.86	15.86	0	0
Designed Parkland	0	0	0	0
Detached Housing	323.06	318.93	293.10	372.97
Disused Industry	11.53	42.19	62.44	116.42
Dock and Port Related Industry	0	0	0	0
Dunes	0	0	0	0
Extraction Industry	187.46	276.01	326.52	44.27
Farmhouse	180.59	196.19	193.15	153.13
Forestry and Plantation	94.73	111.68	126.35	128.13
Glass Industry	30.11	99.05	94.31	71.77
Highrise Development	0	0	0	2.95
Historic Route	0	0	0	0

Hospital	12.69	54.32	70.32	23.58
Industrial	17.44	47.44	100.13	307.22
Institution	0.68	0.69	9.89	8.77
Iron Industry / Foundries	19.32	50.59	50.46	13.71
Irregular / Large Fields	0	0	0	0
Irregular / Small Fields	944.83	78.93	90.07	78.88
Irregular /Medium Fields	0	33.48	22.84	46.86
Lowland	0	0	0	0
Managed Woodland	37.84	50.93	50.82	35.97
Manufacturing Industry	23.41	103.21	165.48	203.50
Maritime Commercial Area	0	00	0	0
Model Village	0	0	0	0
Modern Housing Development	0	0	0	643.88
Moss (Wetlands)	358.62	150.60	114.80	5.76
Municipal Depot	0	0	0	38.34
Municipal Works	0	7.26	10.01	76.02
Natural Water Body	22.36	21.49	21.24	20.30
Nature Reserve	0	0	0	96.13
Nursery	2.79	16.45	33.07	11.32
Offices	0	0.13	0.13	26.38
Other (Defence)	0	1.66	1.73	1.53
Other (Recreational and Ornamental)	1.30	6.55	14.07	77.83
Other Land (Rough Land)	32.06	174.64	255.31	556.04
Other Land (Other)	0	0	0	1.95
Place of Worship	17.10	34.39	49.42	49.82
Plantation	66.70	168.25	176.96	124.06
Police Station	0	0.92	1.83	2.64
Prison	0	0	0	0
Private Estate	554.48	159.75	32.41	14.49
Public Park	1.04	6.18	131.16	346.93
Railway	104.64	189.37	200.19	94.14

Range	0	13.42	0	0
Reclaimed Land	0	0	0	0
Regular / Large Fields	0	23.87	81.00	203.53
Regular / Medium Fields	135.59	1754.62	1731.08	795.08
Regular / Small Fields	2409.27	3666.10	2953.36	1530.68
Retail Park	0	0	0	29.34
Road	0	0	50.84	186.29
Salt Marsh	0	0	0	0
Sand and Mud Flats	0	0	0	0
School	3.71	18.98	72.89	219.24
Scrub	20.47	29.74	41.28	28.97
Semi Detached Housing	12.68	34.51	312.57	1202.06
Semi Regular / Large Fields	48.64	415.03	649.95	1301.49
Semi Regular / Medium Fields	425.87	1979.10	2367.01	1866.72
Semi Regular / Small Fields	7014.84	2289.21	1386.13	784.07
Sports Ground	32.73	125.23	225.98	704.46
Terraced	64.16	310.03	421.59	386.74
Upland	7.19	0	0	0
Villa Housing	0	16.82	17.80	12.28
Warehousing	0	0	0	19.42
Woodland	169.76	177.32	177.91	168.94