



Chester Canal – a new Conservation Area

Chester is famous for its Roman walls and medieval arcaded shops. But few visitors visit its canal, and even boaters usually moor short of the dramatic rock cut gorge below the walls and do not see the awesome three lock staircase that leads into the canal basin. The Chester Canal is distinguished from the rest of the Shropshire Union Canal by its greater age, broad locks and by interesting features such as the iron lock at Beeston and the distinctive lengthsmen's huts. The Wirral Line which connected Chester to Ellesmere Port in 1797 transformed the previously ailing waterway and is today an integral part of the Chester Canal.

The Chester Canal Heritage Trust has promoted the designation of the Chester Canal from Ellesmere Port to Nantwich as a Conservation Area to give its features, heritage and environment greater protection from unsympathetic developments. The Trust has put together the necessary documentation including a detailed, illustrated gazetteer of important buildings and features along its length. It has persuaded the two local Cheshire Councils to start the process of designation.

Consultation on the proposal started on 27 June and runs for twelve weeks until 18 September 2016. The Trust hopes that the many boaters, walkers, cyclists and anglers who enjoy using the canal will support its designation as a Conservation Area. It's easy to do. Put the phrase ***CWAC Chester Canal*** into any search engine and you will be taken to the Cheshire West and Chester Council consultation website. There you will find all the Appraisal documents and an on-line survey or, if you prefer, a questionnaire, both of which are soliciting peoples' views on the canal and the Conservation Area proposal.

If you support us in making the Chester Canal a Conservation Area, please make your views known to the Council. The more favourable responses there are the better it will be!

***John Herson
Chairman
July 2016***