



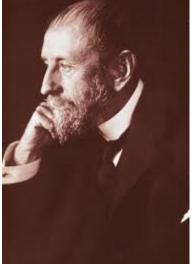
Octavia Hill

"to watch the fresh air diminished in one neighbourhood after another, taller houses being built, and more of them, yard and garden being built over year by year, forecourts covered and country retreating...further and further from within walking distance...this is life...this is pain."

More Air for London, 1888

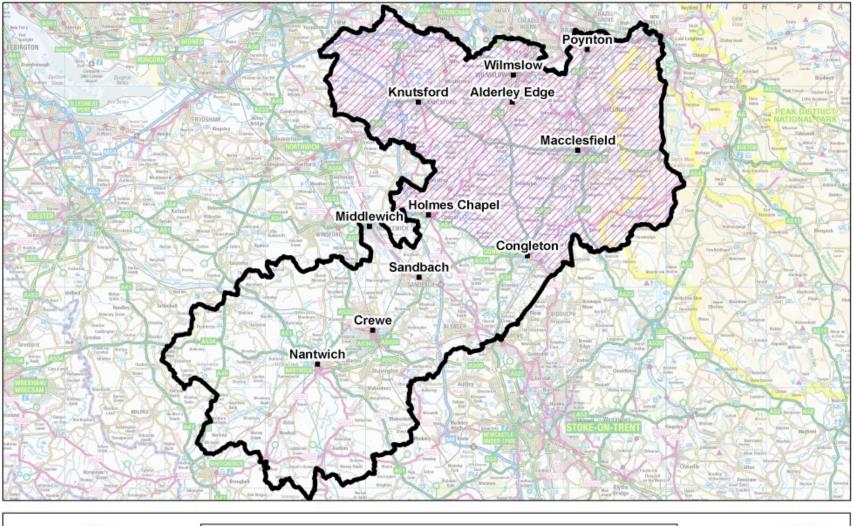
Robert Hunter

"Its (The National Trust's) work is by no means confined to the purchase of Places of Interest and Beauty. It fosters action to protect such Places, to ward off disaster and to stimulate municipal and private opinion..."







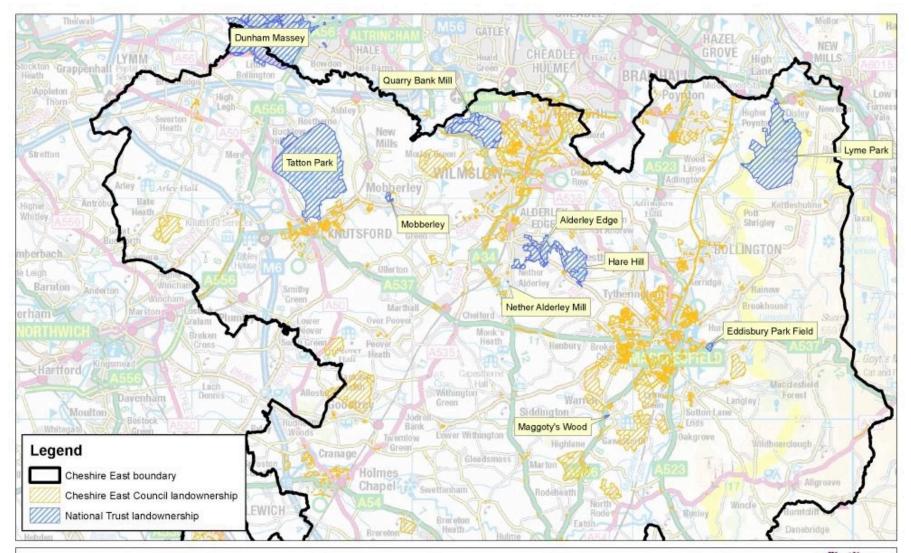


Cheshire East

What makes this area of Cheshire East special?



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Statement of Significance and Spirit of Place for the defined area of Cheshire East

The landscape within the study area is valued very highly for its beauty by those who live within it. Its 'green' and 'rural' characteristics generate an 'idylic' quality. It is a place of diversity and richness of character; a mosaic of subtly varying landscape types and places of special interest and delight, which seem to have an informal, but essential relationship with one-another.

Proximity of interrelating features is central to its significance and spirit; without this, perhaps the value of each is diminished. The 'peaks' such as Alderley Edge, the Cloud and White Nancy and the surrounding plains, are topographically distinct but equally loved and inextricably linked by the views across a landscape which appear largely unspoilt, timeless and agricultural. And the intrusion of the modern does not detract; Jodrell Bank is a sought out reference point along with Manchester in the distance, which reference connectivity and entice the viewer to take a step into the world beyond.

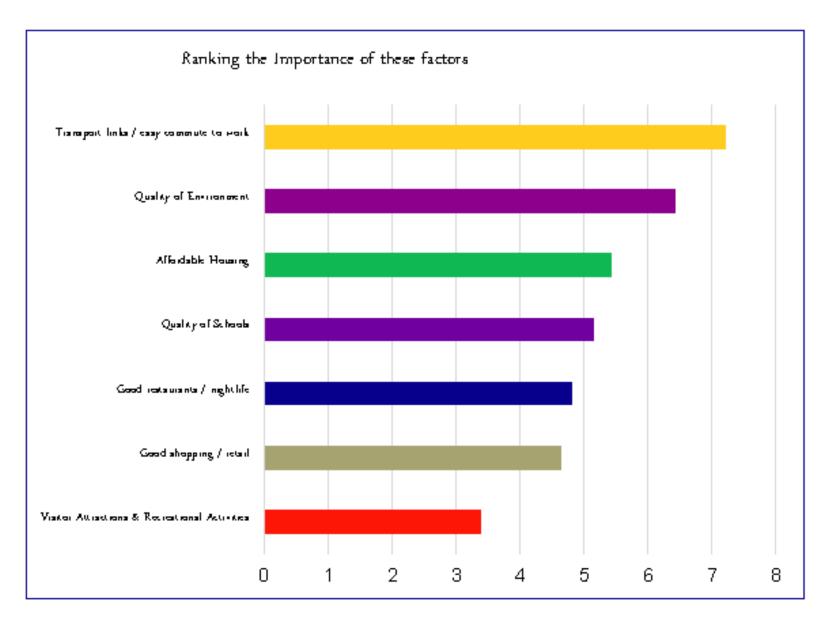
These visual links across the landscape, like the networks of road, rail, footpath and bridleway and the River Bollin and its tributaries seem together to strike a chord of 'connectivity' and suggest a key to how one place relates to another, whether environmentally, for business or for recreation. The area is one whose value in part is reliant upon its permeability and accessibility, through possibilities of movement within and beyond; thus, the value of relationship between the rural and the urban relates explicitly to proximity to cities, towns and to transport links. Furthermore, it is the sense that the traditional and historic are integral to the quality of modern life - and that easy access to unspoilt countryside is recognised as an essential ingredient of the whole.

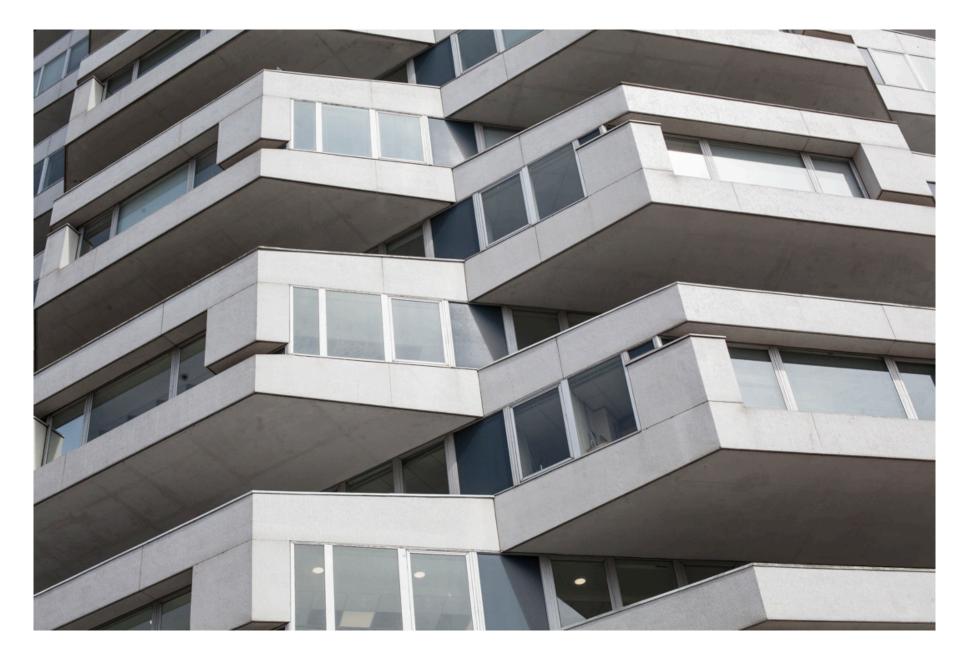
However, the rural and topographic qualities, in proximity to urban offerings and options for travel, are not enough on their own to complete the sense of the essence of the place. The historic and industrial legacies are essential ingredients. The market towns and vernacular villages are distinctive and loved and the great landscaped parks such as Lyme Park, Tatton Park and Quarry Bank, are second only to the enigmatic Alderley Edge and Jodrell Bank as popular features. They provide a link between the rural landscape heritage and the later industrial interventions with their modern, technological and bio-science equivalents, which are held as beacons of local ingenuity and enterprise.

The meres, heathland and mosses resonate as highly significant and essential elements of the cultural and environmental identity, yet there is an awareness that the most prized countryside locations are under pressure, not only from development, seen as inevitable, but from increasing numbers of visitors, who like themselves, are likely to 'connect' with the landscape in just the same way.

There is parity and symmetry between so many of the features of the area; in the historic and the modern, the plain and the peak, the rural and the urban, the agricultural and the industrial, the peacefulness and the vibrant city, the country walks and the motorway; yet these same factors create a tension within a fragile landscape.

Key factors in where individuals choose to live







"To learn about Croydon, and...look at it in a different way. I've lived here 5 years but my partner has lived here all his life and hates the town centre, as do most of his friends."

"I've lived in Croydon all my life - it was good to hear someone else's view and have buildings pointed out...that I'd never really noticed."

"Both my parents are from Croydon and with the impending redevelopment of my childhood shopping ground I had to visit."

"Because I wanted to know more about the place I live in"

"I wanted to learn more about my local area and history of Croydon so I can defend it when everyone says it's crap."

"Live in Croydon. Interested in its future development"

"Because I am always interested in local history and feel there's been lot of change in Croydon historically and currently."