

# CHESTER RECOGNISED AS AN INLAND HERITAGE PORT

Heritage Inland Ports, a new initiative from the Maritime Heritage Trust as part of its Heritage Harbours scheme, is organised jointly with National Historic Ships and European Maritime Heritage. The scheme aims to breathe new life into historic buildings, moorings, maintenance facilities and wasteland, while connecting with local communities and developing training opportunities for young people.

In Roman times, Chester was the busiest port in north-west England. The Maritime Heritage Trust recognised this long history when it announced Chester as its first Inland Heritage Port in 2021.

It followed an application by IWA Chester & Merseyside Branch, Chester Civic Trust and Cheshire West and Chester Council, which

outlined its unique historical development, catalogued surviving features and evaluated its environmental and heritage significance.

Chester's waterways are part of an interconnected system linking the open sea, Dee estuary and the River Dee with the national waterways network via the Shropshire Union Canal.

Designation as an Inland Heritage Port will help protect the city's waterfront, maritime and inland waterway heritage assets, while supporting local business growth and increasing tourism. It will also promote community inclusivity and attract investment and heritage funding.

