

High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester)

Background information and data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02_Part 1

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report -
Part 1 of 2

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Part 1 of 2



Department
for Transport

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Contents

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 3 |
| 1.1 | Purpose of this report | 3 |
| 1.2 | Data sources | 4 |
| 1.3 | Study area | 5 |
| 1.4 | Surveys undertaken | 6 |
| 2 | Geology, topography and landform | 7 |
| 2.1 | Geology | 7 |
| 2.2 | Topography and landform | 7 |
| 2.3 | Geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental background | 8 |
| 3 | Historic landscape character | 12 |
| 4 | Archaeological and historic background | 15 |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 15 |
| 4.2 | Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC – AD 43) | 15 |
| 4.3 | Roman (AD 43 – 410) | 20 |
| 4.4 | Early medieval (AD 410 – 1066) | 22 |
| 4.5 | Medieval (1066 – 1540) | 24 |
| 4.6 | Post medieval (1540 – 1901) | 27 |
| 4.7 | Modern (1901 – present) | 31 |
| 5 | Built heritage overview | 34 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 34 |
| 5.2 | Medieval (1066 – 1540) | 34 |
| 5.3 | Post medieval (1540 – 1901) | 35 |
| 5.4 | Modern (1901 – present) | 41 |
| 6 | Research potential | 44 |
| 6.1 | Introduction | 44 |
| 6.2 | General | 44 |
| 6.3 | Prehistoric | 45 |
| 6.4 | Roman | 46 |
| 6.5 | Early medieval | 46 |
| 6.6 | Medieval | 47 |
| 6.7 | Post-medieval | 47 |

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 6.8 | Modern | 48 |
| 7 | List of acronyms | 50 |
| 8 | References | 51 |
| | Appendix A: Historic environment detailed gazetteer | 57 |
| | | |
| | Tables | |
| | Table 1: List of acronyms | 50 |

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this report

1.1.1 This report presents a summary of the baseline data relating to the historic environment.

1.1.2 Baseline data have been collected for the HS2 Phase 2b Proposed Scheme in relation to the Wimboldsley to Lostock community area (MA02), which lies within the districts of Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East, within the County of Cheshire and contains all or part of the civil parishes (CPs) of:

- Darnhall;
- Stanthorne and Wimboldsley;
- Middlewich;
- Sproston;
- Winsford;
- Bostock;
- Byley;
- Cranage;
- Holmes Chapel;
- Moulton;
- Whitegate and Marton;
- Davenham;
- Lach Dennis;
- Allostock;
- Nether Peover;
- Rudheath;
- Northwich;
- Kingsmead;
- Hartford;
- Anderton with Marbury;
- Marston;
- Wincham;
- Lostock Gralam; and
- Plumley.

1.1.3 The purpose of this report is:

- to provide a contextual background narrative for the historic environment, including buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape, and to place these in a geological and topographical context;
- to support the reporting of the predicted effects on historic environment in the Phase 2b Environmental Statement¹; and
- to present identified research priorities for the historic environment.

1.1.4 All identified heritage assets discussed in this report are shown in the Environmental Statement, Volume 5 Map Book, Map Series HE-01 (heritage assets within the 500m study area²) and HE-02 (designated heritage assets within the 2km study area).

1.1.5 The Phase 2b Environmental Statement should be referred to for details of the historic environment impact assessment¹.

1.1.6 The detailed gazetteer in Appendix A sets out Unique gazetteer identifier (UID) codes for the heritage assets considered in the impact assessment (e.g. MA02_0001); these UID are used for reference across all the historic environment reports and maps.

1.2 Data sources

1.2.1 As set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment, Scope and Methodology Report (SMR)³, data reported in this report was obtained from several sources, the main sources comprised:

- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for details of designated sites held by Historic England;
- local authority conservation area appraisal and management documents and their mapping;
- historic landscape characterisation (HLC) mapping undertaken by local planning authorities;
- national historic landscape characterisation (NHLC) mapping and data held by the Archaeology Data Service (ADS);

¹ High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Environmental Statement, Volume 2 and Volume 5*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

² High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Environmental Statement, Volume 5 Historic environment Map Book*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

³ High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester), *Scope and Methodology Report, Volume 5, Appendix CT-001-00001*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- Historic Environment Record (HER) data, held by local planning authorities or their regional advisory bodies;
- National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) held by Historic England;
- aerial photographs and satellite images held by Historic England, local authorities, and other appropriate repositories and LiDAR⁴ data (see BID HE-005-0MA02);
- geological mapping and borehole information as held by the British Geological Survey;
- documentary, cartographic and other resources as deposited within local studies libraries, county and national records libraries and archives, including historic Ordnance Survey maps, tithe, estate and other maps, and other relevant primary sources;
- readily available published and unpublished sources, building surveys and gazetteers;
- data sets held by other bodies, such as Canal & River Trust and the National Trust who have specific data on the assets for which they have a responsibility;
- local authority or ecclesiastic sources such as faculties, historic maps and documentary sources for burial grounds;
- urban characterisation reports, extensive urban surveys (EUS) and urban archaeological databases (UADs) held by Historic England and local planning authorities;
- data from preliminary works such as boreholes or test pits;
- data from a programme of non-intrusive survey (see BID HE-004-0MA02 and BID HE-005-0MA02);
- data from previous intrusive studies, for example coring, trial trenching and building survey;
- data in respect of the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) as identified by the landscape and visual assessment, where this is available; and
- data obtained through field visits from Public Rights of Way (PRoW), or from private land where access has been previously arranged and approved.

1.3 Study area

1.3.1 Detail regarding study areas used for the identification of baseline conditions are set out in the SMR; these comprise:

- the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme;
- 500m either side of this land (reduced to 250m in urban areas and 100m in areas of bored or mined tunnels) for all heritage assets (designated and non-designated); and

⁴ LiDAR (meaning 'light detection and ranging') is a surveying method that measures distance to a target by illuminating the target with pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected pulses with a sensor; this can be used to identify archaeological earthwork evidence.

- 2km either side of this land (reduced to 100m in areas of bored or mined tunnels) for all designated heritage assets.

1.4 Surveys undertaken

1.4.1 In addition to the data sources referred to above, the following survey(s) were undertaken to provide the information in this report are presented below.

Geophysical survey

1.4.2 The aims of the archaeological geophysical survey, as set out in the Generic written scheme of investigation (HE-006-00000⁵) were:

- to identify (so far as practicable) the presence of buried archaeological remains or suspect anomalies in the survey area in order to assist with the definition of the archaeological resource;
- to clarify (so far as practicable) the extent and layout of known sites of archaeological interest within the study area;
- to clarify (so far as practicable) the extent and layout of previously unknown buried archaeological remains within the survey area; and
- to interpret any geophysical anomalies identified by the survey.

1.4.3 The results of the geophysical survey are reported in BID HE-004-0MA02.

⁵ High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Environmental Statement, Generic written scheme of investigation for non-intrusive archaeological survey*, Volume 5: Appendix HE-006-00000. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

2 Geology, topography and landform

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 This section provides a summary of the geology (superficial and bedrock units) as identified on the British Geological Survey (BGS)⁶ within the MA02 area. Further detail on the geology of the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area can be found in Volume 2, Community Area report: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam (MA02), Section 10¹.
- 2.1.2 The bedrock geology mainly comprises the Mercia Mudstone Group, which is typically described as mudstone and siltstone with some halite (salt) and sandstone. Halite has been exploited for salt production within the study area, from as early as the late Iron Age and Roman-periods (see Section 4).
- 2.1.3 The majority of the bedrock for the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area is overlain by glacial till. These deposits comprise poorly sorted sandy, silty clay. In addition, alluvium, variably comprising organic silty clay, silt, sand and gravel, occurs along the base of the valleys of the River Weaver, River Wheelock, River Dane, Gad Brook, Wade Brook, Peover Eye and Smoker Brook. Isolated river terrace deposits of sand and gravel are also present along the valley of the River Dane. Glaciofluvial sheet deposits, comprising sand and gravel, are present in various locations in the study area. Peat deposits are also present, including an area of peat moss at Holford Moss⁷.

2.2 Topography and landform

- 2.2.1 The topography of the area is characteristic of the mid-Cheshire Plain; predominantly level or very gently rolling land. The plain is divided by a series of river and stream courses into three areas: the Wimboldsley Plain south of Middlewich and Winsford; the Stublach Plain north-east of Middlewich; and the Lostock Plain east of Northwich.
- 2.2.2 The meandering River Weaver rises in the south of the county and flows to the north, in shallow valleys. The settlements of Winsford and Northwich have developed within and on the slopes of the Wheelock Valley, which becomes broader as it flows further north. The River Dane, which rises in the foothills of the Pennines to the east, flows south-west in a shallow meandering course across the Cheshire Plain before joining the smaller, faster flowing River Wheelock in the centre of Northwich. The settlement of Middlewich lies in the land between the River Wheelock and the River Croco, another smaller, faster flowing river which also joins the River Dane. Running from east to west across the Stublach and Lostock

⁶ British Geological Survey (2021), *Geology of Britain*. Available online at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/>.

⁷ Leah, M. D. Wells, C. Huckerby, E. and Appleby, C. (1997), *North West Wetlands Survey 4: The Wetlands of Cheshire*, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

Plains are the Wade Brook, Peover Eye and Smoker Brook. These small watercourses flow into the River Weaver to the north of Northwich.

- 2.2.3 The study area is rural, with mixed use farmland located on the flat plains and valley floors. Woodland tends to be on the valley sides of the watercourses. They include areas of ancient woodland and later plantations created in the 18th and 19th centuries. The main towns in the area are Middlewich and Northwich, located in the River Dane and Weaver valleys as a result of the salt industry (see Section 4.5). The general pattern of settlement outside of these towns is villages, small hamlets and farmsteads. These tend to be located on higher ground above the valley floor, such as the edge of the River Dane valley associated with more fertile alluvial soils. The flat Stublach and Lostock plains, in comparison, have scattered farmsteads and fewer villages reflecting areas of former heathland that formed on the glacial till soils less suitable for agriculture (see section 2.3).

2.3 Ge archaeological and palaeoenvironmental background

- 2.3.1 Geoarchaeology is the study of the formation of the physical landscape through analysis of soils and other materials such as weathered rock. This is complimented by the analysis of floral and faunal remains that indicate environmental conditions and provide a picture of previous environments known as palaeoenvironments.
- 2.3.2 This section presents the known geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental baseline resource as identified through a range of sources from historic ground investigation data, such as boreholes, to the results of archaeological surveys and evaluations.
- 2.3.3 As noted above (see Section 2.1), the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area is largely underlain by glacial till, with smaller pockets of glaciofluvial sands and gravels throughout. There is also alluvium⁸ along the base of river valleys, river terrace deposits and peat. These deposits all predominantly overlie Mudstone and Halite bedrock.
- 2.3.4 These superficial geological deposits date from the end of the Pleistocene⁹ during the Devensian glaciation¹⁰. Ice moving from the Lake District and Western Pennines interacted with an ice stream in the Irish Sea basin along the western and southern fringes of the

⁸ Also referred to as alluvial deposits.

⁹ The Pleistocene is defined as the geological epoch between 2 million BP (before present) and 11,700 BP. This is related closely to the archaeological Palaeolithic period.

¹⁰ Usai, M-R. (2005), *Geoarchaeology in Northern England, The Landscape and Geography of Northern England*, Centre for Archaeology Report 54/2005, English Heritage.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

region, including Cheshire¹¹. On the Cheshire plain, periodic halts in ice flow resulted in the formation of moraines, often concentrated around bedrock highs such as the mid-Cheshire ridge. The landscape of the Cheshire plain was therefore formed as the ice melted. This created thick covers of tills, as well as glacial sands and gravel from glacial outwash and rivers¹².

- 2.3.5 Till deposits are widely represented in the lowlands of northern England, including central Cheshire¹². These are mostly uncovered across the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area although there are river terrace deposits, alluvium and peat in some areas. Any archaeological material discarded within the limits of the glacier would have become incorporated into the till and glaciofluvial deposits left behind. However, physical evidence of human activity from tills is scarce¹³.
- 2.3.6 Glacial sands and gravels are geologically common, appearing in a variety of environments. Those within the Scheme area were formed during the last glacial maximum. These deposits formed due to glaciofluvial activity in the Pleistocene, where glacial meltwater carried large amounts of deposits downstream¹⁴. These deposits are found within the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam, close to the Wheelock, Weaver and Dane river valleys, as well as their tributaries. Glacial sands and gravel can often be found overlying expanses of glacial till or can be observed as lenses within the till itself¹⁵. These were dry points within a largely wetland landscape that would have appealed to early human inhabitants.
- 2.3.7 Kettle holes, which were formed during the late glacial period, are found across the lowlands of Cheshire. As glaciers retreat, large blocks of ice become detached and are incorporated into the glacial till. When these 'dead ice' masses melt, the debris resting on top slumps relative to the ground level around it, forming a 'kettle hole'¹⁶. The majority are dry; however,

¹¹ Chiverrell, *et al* (2013), Bayesian modelling the retreat of the Irish Sea Ice Stream, *Journal of Quaternary Science* 28/2, P200-209; Clark *et al* (2018), *Pattern and timing of retreat of the last British-Irish Ice Sheet*, University of Sheffield.

¹² Porter, J. *et al* (2009), *North West Landscape Character Framework. Final Report. Part 2: Regional Landscape Character Types and Areas*, Countryside.

¹³ Wymer, J. (1999), *The Lower Palaeolithic Occupation of Britain, Volume 1*, Wessex Archaeology and English Heritage. Available online at: <https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/lower-palaeolithic-occupation-britain>.

¹⁴ Norton, G. E., Bloodworth, A. J., Cameron, D. G., Evans, D. J., Lott, G. K., Hobbs, S. F., Spencer, N. A. and Highley D. E. (2005), *Mineral Resource Information in Support of National, Regional and Local Planning – Cheshire (comprising Cheshire, Boroughs of Halton and Warrington)*, CR/05/090N, British Geological Survey.

¹⁵ Canti, M. and Corcoan, J. (2015), *Geoarchaeology, Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record, Historic England*. Available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/geoarchaeology-earth-sciences-to-understand-archaeological-record/heag067-geoarchaeology/>.

¹⁶ Farrell, M. and Hazell, Z. (2016), *Small wetlands: identification, significance and threats to their loss. A review of the literature*, Historic England, Research Report Series no. 55/2016, P5. Available online at: <https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15547>.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

some examples in Cheshire including Hatchmere and Pettypool remain as waterbodies. Some examples contain sequences of deposits dating from the late glacial period onwards. Analysis of these deposit sequences provides insights into past landscape development and human exploitation from the late Pleistocene onwards¹⁷.

- 2.3.8 The start of the geological epoch of the Holocene broadly corresponds with archaeological periods from the Mesolithic to the present day. Geological deposits from this epoch includes alluvium, from Cheshire's river system, and peat, resulting from the formation of wetlands.
- 2.3.9 River terrace deposits, such as alluvium, formed from the Pleistocene onwards, are present around Stanthorne, along the River Dane. Water courses began to erode the till, and the sands and gravel, deposited at the end of the last ice age, depositing blankets of alluvium across the floodplains¹⁸. The alluvium builds up over time and as the river course erodes the sediment, multiple terraces can form. On the River Dane, there is a high terrace group of late Pleistocene and a middle terrace group of late Pleistocene to early Holocene¹⁹. Finally, a low terrace formed in the mid to late Holocene, which has been subject to continual erosion, deposition, and landform development. The low terrace has subsequently been formed, resulting from a major phase of medieval soil erosion²⁰. This chronology of river terrace deposits can preserve evidence for human occupation. Archaeological sites, materials and land surfaces sealed beneath alluvium can be preserved through waterlogged conditions, which provide an environment suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental evidence and other organic materials²¹. As river valleys have been attractive locations for human habitation, alluvium can contain detailed information about past human settlement, climatic variation and land-use practices.
- 2.3.10 Cheshire has a range of 'wetlands' that include basin, valley, floodplain and raised mire peats, as well as peat-based organic soils. Mires were often associated with lakes known as meres that formed through the collapse of glacial ice blocks creating kettle holes (see above). Peat deposits formed after the Devensian glaciation in low lying areas or hollows

¹⁷ Archaeological Research Services (2018), *Archaeological Excavation of a 'Kettle Hole' (KB5) at Killerby Quarry*, North Yorkshire, Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report No 2018/13. Available online at: <https://www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Archaeological-Excavation-of-a-Kettle-Hole-2018.pdf>.

¹⁸ Canti, M. and Corcoan, J. (2015), *Geoarchaeology, Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record*, Historic England. Available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/geoarchaeology-earth-sciences-to-understand-archaeological-record/heag067-geoarchaeology/>.

¹⁹ The Holocene is the present epoch of the Quaternary period (11,700 years ago to the present day).

²⁰ Hooke, J. M. Harvey, A. M., Miller, S. Y. and Redmond, C. E. (1990), The chronology and stratigraphy of the alluvial terraces of the River Dane, Cheshire, NW England, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 15, P717-737. Available online at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/esp.3290150806>.

²¹ Kibblewhite et al. (2015), Predicting the Preservation of Cultural Artefacts and Buried Materials in Soil, *Science of the Total Environment* 529, P249-263.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

(including kettle holes) where organic material accumulated. As organic material accumulated, it formed areas of peat which are known as 'mosses' or 'mosslands'.

- 2.3.11 Peatland areas have high potential for palaeoenvironmental and archaeological investigation. The anaerobic conditions provide an ideal environment for the preservation of archaeological remains. These remains include wood, seeds, pollen and the soft tissue of animals and humans²². Pollen preserved within the peat deposits provides a record of changes in the local environment over time. Small particles of charcoal also present in the peat can indicate whether burning, potentially a result of human clearance of woodland, was taking place in the surrounding area. Waterlogged plant remains can indicate what was growing in the peatland itself and record changes in how the landscape was managed²³. These remains provide detailed sequential environmental records and help to understand the changing environment of Cheshire after the last glaciation²⁴. The peat also seals and protects evidence of human activity, such as artefacts and archaeological sites.
- 2.3.12 Holford Moss (MA02_HLCA07) contains organic material which may date from the late Mesolithic period. It is thought that the original extent of the moss may have reached 150ha. However, its current extent is 24ha and former mossland is only indicated by place name evidence of Moss Farm, Moss Side Farm and Moss Lane. The peat has likely been removed through gradual reclamation for agriculture and peat cutting for fuel. However, areas of peat still survive to a depth of c. 1-2m below the present ground level²⁴.

²² Usai, M-R. (2005), *Geoarchaeology in Northern England, The Landscape and Geography of Northern England*, Centre for Archaeology Report 54/2005, English Heritage.

²³ Huntley, J, (2020), Development-led palaeoenvironmental work in Cheshire: A Review, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society*, P123-159.

²⁴ Leah et al (1997), *The Wetlands of Cheshire*, Lancaster Imprints 5, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, Lancaster.

3 Historic landscape character

- 3.1.1 The historic environment landscape character assessment is summarised in Environmental Statement, Volume 5, Appendix HE-003-0MA02²⁵. This section provides an overview of baseline historic landscape characteristics for the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area (MA02).
- 3.1.2 The following HLCA are represented in the area:
- Stanthorne (MA02_HLCA01);
 - Bostock, Whatcroft and Davenham (MA02_HLCA02);
 - Stublach Plain (MA02_HLCA03);
 - Northwich Urban and Industrial (MA02_HLCA04);
 - Lostock Plain (MA02_HLCA05);
 - Peover Eye Valley (MA02_HLCA06); and
 - Holford Moss (MA02_HLCA07).
- 3.1.3 The following HLCA from adjacent community areas continue into the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area:
- Wimboldsley Plain HLCA (MA01_HLCA05) continues from the Hough to Walley Green area (MA01) into the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area and is described in more detail in BID HE-001-0MA01; and
 - Pickmere HLCA (MA03_HLCA01) continues from the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area into the Pickmere to Agden and Hulseheath area (MA03) and is described in more detail in BID HE-001-0MA03.
- 3.1.4 Agricultural land dominates the historic landscape character of Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area between the towns of Winsford, Middlewich and Northwich. The earliest agricultural landscapes date to the medieval period and are characterised by field systems around small settlements, farms and cottages. These are found in the majority of HLCA areas (except Northwich Urban and Industrial MA02_HLCA04). Examples include, Stanthorne HLCA (MA02_HLCA01) where medieval fields systems surround Stanthorne and Clive Green and trackways and former roads of medieval origin connect Clive Green and Swanlow Green. Elsewhere, medieval town fields survive around the settlements of Lostock Green and Lach Dennis in the Lostock Plain HLCA (MA02_HLCA05). Town fields are defined by small irregular shaped fields, typically 2 to 2.5ha in size. They were used by the farming community in

²⁵ High Speed Two Ltd (2022), High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester), *Environmental Statement, Wimboldsley to Lostock, Historic landscape character areas, Volume 5: Appendix HE-003-0MA02*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-phase-2b-crewe-manchester-environmental-statement>.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

villages in a rotation system in a similar manner to the open field system of the English midlands.

- 3.1.5 Marginal land included heath and mosses on the larger plains. Heathland survived on the large plains such as the Stublach Plain HLCA (MA02_HLCA03). Settlement has historically comprised dispersed farmsteads and small hamlets. These included isolated moated sites such as Kinderton Hall (MA02_0087) and Drakelow Hall (MA02_0127) which were surrounded by smaller pockets of medieval fields. During the post-medieval period, agricultural improvement occurred to facilitate larger farms, mostly comprised of pastures. Further enclosure of marginal land occurred. For example, Stublach Plain HLCA (MA02_HLCA03) was subject to heathland enclosure and most fields are larger more regular fields between 2.5 – 6 hectares in size. Holford Moss HLCA (MA02_HLCA07) include the remains of Holford Moss and the surrounding farmland. Mosslands were areas of peat and represented a valuable resource for fuel. The 23ha of Holford Moss which have not been converted to agricultural use are the largest survival of mossland in mid-Cheshire. The extent of the former moss was much larger as revealed by place name evidence (e.g. Moss Lane, Mosslane Farm, Moss Side Farm and Moss Farm). The mossland at Holford Moss was enclosed during the post-medieval period as they represented good quality farmland and now survives as enclosed, planned and reorganised fields.
- 3.1.6 Marl pits are a characteristic feature of the agricultural landscape within the study area. The pits are a result of the marling of pasture and arable land, a practice which has been carried out in Cheshire since at least the 16th century. Marl was a local resource, generally being dug from the field itself, creating small pits and ponds. The marl was then spread across fields in a process called marling to improve soil fertility²⁶. The resulting pits were often left open to allow dairy cattle to drink. They can now be identified within the landscape, often on the boundaries of fields and surrounded by clumps of trees.
- 3.1.7 By the 20th century some areas were largely reorganised resulting in the loss of earlier field systems. An example is Wimboldsley Plain HLCA (MA01_HLCA04), to the north of the A530 Nantwich Road. This land was part of the estate of Lea Hall (MA02_0020) and former field boundaries, ridge and furrow, and trackways have been recorded by remote sensing. However, the current large fields with long linear boundaries were produced as part of a 20th century reorganisation of the land. This has resulted in the loss of earlier field boundaries.
- 3.1.8 Woodland is generally confined to the river valleys. Areas of ancient woodland survive in small stream valleys at Bull's Wood and Earl's Wood in Bostock, Whatcroft and Davenham HLCA (MA02_HLCA02) and Mill Wood on the Peover Eye Valley HLCA (MA02_HLCA06). There is little woodland visible throughout the plains the exception being isolated post-medieval

²⁶ Mathew, W. M. (1993), *Marling in British Agriculture: A Case of Partial Identity*, *Agricultural History Review* 41-2, P97-110.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

plantations. Hedgerows and isolated trees are still common denoting the former medieval field boundaries.

- 3.1.9 Large country houses (see Section 4.6) surrounded by estates developed in the post-medieval period along the Dane Valley in the Bostock, Whatcroft and Davenham HLCA (MA02_HLCA02). The estates of Lea Hall (MA02_0020) Stanthorne Hall (MA02_0076), Bostock Hall (MA02_0104), Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124) and Davenham Hall (MA02_0130) contained farmland. The formal gardens, parkland, woodland and ornamental lakes form part of these estates. The largest and best preserved is around Bostock Hall which is within the larger Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).
- 3.1.10 The small medieval towns of Middlewich and Northwich expanded in the post-medieval period due to the development of the salt and chemical industries. The urban areas of Northwich expanded to include Rudheath and Lostock Gralam. By the 19th century, estates of red brick terraced houses developed in these suburbs. In the 20th century suburban housing estates were built at Kingsmead and Rudheath.
- 3.1.11 The salt and chemical industries developed around these towns. In the Northwich Urban and Industrial HLCA (MA02_HLCA04) there are large areas of industrial and post-industrial landscape. These areas include the former Gadbrook Works (MA02_0155) and the surviving chemical works at Lostock Gralam. Light industrial and retail estates developed in the later 20th century. The Lostock Plain (MA02_HLCA05) includes areas of former industry. The Plumley Lime Beds contain the scheduled monument of the Former Soda Ash and Calcium Nitrate Works (MA02_0185). Much of the Lostock Plain HLCA was developed in the late 20th century for the Holford Moss Brinefield and later Salt Cavity Gas Storage. Although this represents a change in historic landscape use, its impact on the original fields is slight, as the salt extraction and gas storage has very little surface infrastructure. At the eastern side of the Stublach Plain HLCA (MA02_HLCA03) is an area of former fields that served as RAF Cranage (MA02_0214) during the Second World War. The area has been used for salt solution mining and latterly gas storage in the 20th century and distributed throughout the landscape are small industrial units of the Stublach Gas Storage facility.
- 3.1.12 Transport infrastructure crosses the landscape of the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area. The earliest are Roman routes such as the A530 King Street (MA02_0154) across the Stublach Plain HLCA (MA02_HLCA03). In the post-medieval period new transport infrastructure linked the towns and industry of the Cheshire Plain. From the 1770s to 1830s the arrival of the Trent and Mersey Canal and Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch introduced new transport infrastructure to the largely medieval landscape. This was followed from the 1840s to 1870s by the Grand Junction Railway (WCML), the London and North Western Railway and the Manchester to Chester Railway Line. The A556 Shurlach Road, built in the 1970s, also runs between the Lostock Plain (MA02_HLCA05) and Northwich Urban and Industrial HLCA (MA02_HLCA04). The M6 forms the eastern boundary of the Stublach Plain HLCA (MA02_HLCA03) and Peover Eye Valley (MA02_HLCA06).

4 Archaeological and historic background

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides a chronological overview of the archaeological and historic context of the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area (MA02). This context supports an understanding of the relative heritage value of assets within the study area and identifies archaeological characteristic and underlying trends contributing to an understanding of the potential for unknown archaeological remains to be present within the study area.

4.2 Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC – AD 43)

Palaeolithic (1,000,000 – 10,000 BC)

- 4.2.1 During the Palaeolithic period, people would have lived in small, probably familial, groups. They would have survived through hunting of animals and gathering natural resources. Climatic conditions during the Devensian when the ice sheet was present over north-west England would generally have been too cold and hostile for humans. However, it is probable human occupation occurred on the margins of the ice sheet and during the warmer interglacials (and interstadials) when ice would have melted.
- 4.2.2 The earliest evidence of human occupation in north-west England dates to the Late Upper Palaeolithic²⁷. This represents the final stages of the Devensian glaciation as the ice sheet retreated. Evidence for this period is provided through stone tools, flints and environmental evidence. In situ deposits that demonstrate the presence of human groups in the region are mainly confined to caves and rock shelters²⁸. The possibility of open-air archaeological sites has been demonstrated in the region at High Furlong in the Fylde, Lancashire²⁷. However, away from caves and rock shelters, archaeological material is likely to have been obscured, removed or redeposited during the passage of ice over north-west England. These materials may have been incorporated within the tills, sands and gravels¹³. However, it is likely that these materials would no longer be in their original context.
- 4.2.3 There are no recorded assets of the Palaeolithic period within the study area. However, it is possible that peat deposits containing palaeoenvironmental evidence are preserved within kettle holes (see Section 2.3).

²⁷ Myers, A. and Stallibrass, S. (2021), *North-West Regional Research Framework: Early Prehistory Resource Assessment Update*. Available online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>.

²⁸ Hodgson, J. and Brennand, M. (2006), *North-West Regional Research Framework: The Prehistoric Resource Assessment*. Available online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>.

Mesolithic (10,000 – 4,000 BC)

- 4.2.4 Hunting and gathering of natural resources prevailed throughout the Mesolithic period. This included gathering woodland resources, animal hunting, and exploitation of the wetlands and rivers of the Cheshire plains. Mesolithic activity is generally identified in north-west England by scatters of worked flint. The likelihood is that this activity represented temporary or seasonal camps located in wetland locations or close to water courses²⁷. Examples include the early Mesolithic camp identified in Tatton Park (see BID HE-001 0MA06).
- 4.2.5 The palaeoenvironmental evidence from the region shows that people were exploiting the landscape. This opens the possibility for similar activity at Holford Moss (MA02_HLCA07), which appears to have been exploited throughout the prehistoric period²⁴. Mesolithic activity has also been identified close to rivers within the region. Mesolithic flints have been recovered from a site located on a promontory above the River Dee at Poulton²⁷. This shows that Mesolithic activity could survive within river terrace deposits on the River Dane (see Section 2.3).

Neolithic (4,000 – 2,200 BC)

- 4.2.6 The Neolithic period is marked by the introduction of pottery and agriculture. It also marks a phase of intensified settlement, land-use, tool production and the introduction of social hierarchies. Hunting and gathering, along with seasonal migrations was probably still taking place at this time. Like the preceding Mesolithic period, Neolithic activity is most often represented by worked flint scatters. There is an increased occurrence of dug features, such as pits, which contain sherds of early pottery and flints. These are interpreted as representing the first signs of a group's connection to place. Stone axe production also increased during this period and trade networks are apparent through the distribution of, for example, Cumbrian and Cornish axes²⁹.
- 4.2.7 The earliest evidence for farming in the north-west England is likely to have begun around the 4th millennium BC, along the Merseyside coastline. Where activity has been recorded within the region, it is located on well-drained land. This includes areas associated with wetlands, and there is potential for activity at Holford Moss or along the River Dane. Where settlement was permanent within the region, it includes buildings constructed of wooden posts, such as Arthill Heath Farm³⁰. Palaeoenvironmental evidence also demonstrates that people were exploiting the landscape during this period. Burnt layers are visible in peat

²⁹ Bradley, R. and Edmonds, M. (1993), *Interpreting Axe Trade: Production and Exchange in Neolithic Britain*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

³⁰ Nevell, M. (1999), *Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlement in North-West England: theory, marginality and settlement, in; Living on the edge of Empire: models, methodology and marginality. Late Prehistoric and Romano-British rural settlement in North-West England, Manchester, CBA North West Volume 3, University of Manchester and Chester Archaeology, P14-26.*

deposits at Hatchmere, Norley³¹ and Lindow Moss²⁴ dated to around 4,300 BC to 3,950 BC and are interpreted as evidence for clearance of land for farming in the Neolithic period.

Bronze Age (2,600 – 700 BC)

- 4.2.8 The Bronze Age is nationally defined by the introduction of bronze metalwork, changes in pottery style and the increase of single burials. In north-west England there is also evidence for continuity from the Neolithic period. People continued to live in small settlements of wooden structures and farm on a subsistence basis. Although new materials such as bronze were available, evidence suggests that Bronze Age groups continued to use tools made from worked flints. Broad changes in religious, agricultural and social practices from 2,600 BC, occur in Cheshire.
- 4.2.9 Individual burials become more common in funerary monuments known as round barrows³². Three possible round barrows have been identified east of Kinderton Hall (MA02_0306). Others within the region are recorded at Bucklow Hill (see BID HE-001-0MA03)²⁷, Church Lawton, near Alsager³³ and Delamere²⁷. These were generally located on prominent ridges of land where they were visible in the wider landscape. Evidence for settlement in the Bronze Age is scarce but is also recorded on better draining and higher ground, such as Oversley Farm (see BID HE-001-MA06). Settlements along the mid Cheshire sandstone ridge, to the west of the study area, were also established at the end of the Bronze Age.
- 4.2.10 Within the study area, bronze artefacts have been discovered accidentally or during metal-detecting. This includes a bronze axe from Stanthorne and a bronze palstave, a type of hafted axe, from Rudheath. They are believed to have been deposited on dry land, in wetlands or in rivers. Bronze artefacts tend to be high status objects and are believed to be indicative of a more hierarchical society, engaged in complex trade networks. Their deposition is believed to be for ritual reasons as opposed to by accidental loss³⁴.
- 4.2.11 There is little evidence for agriculture in the Bronze Age. This may imply that arable agriculture was less common, and that pastoral farming predominated in the study area, with seasonal use of the area for grazing rather than permanent settlement.

³¹ Higham, N. J. and Cane, T. (1997), *I: The Tatton Park project, part 1: prehistoric to sub-Roman settlement and land use*. Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society 74.

³² Round barrows are characterised by a circular, or sub-circular mound, surrounded by a ditch. The majority of barrows have been levelled and the ring ditch is sometimes the only surviving feature.

³³ Reid, M. (2014), *Once a Sacred and Secluded Place: Early Bronze Age Monuments at Church Lawton, near Alsager, Cheshire*, Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society 80.

³⁴ Bradley, R. (2017), *A Geography of Offerings, Deposits of Valuables in the Landscape of Ancient Europe*, Oxbow Books.

Iron Age (800 BC – AD 43)

- 4.2.12 The Iron Age is characterised nationally by the introduction of iron metalwork, including swords, horse equipment and decorative items. There is evidence in the Iron Age for hierarchical societies forming with distinct territories of people, which grew larger towards the end of the Iron Age. These larger territories are thought to reflect the emergence of new social and political entities³⁵. At this time, the Cheshire plain may have formed part of the territory of a tribal group known as the Cornovii³⁶. The territory of this tribe is believed to extend from Shropshire in the south, the Peak District in the east and Wales to the west.
- 4.2.13 During the Iron Age, the climate became cooler and wetter. An expanding population necessitated the intensification of agricultural practices and led to the clearance of marginal land. Palaeoenvironmental evidence from Hatchmere and Peckforton suggests woodland clearance occurred in the early Iron Age and cereal was grown in the later Iron Age³⁷. It is also likely that the raising of livestock continued to be an important element of the agricultural economy.
- 4.2.14 The late Bronze Age settlements on the mid Cheshire sandstone ridge, east of the study area, developed further during the Iron Age. These sites became defended settlements referred to as hillforts and may have acted as centres for an emerging elite³⁸. In contrast, the lowland plains of Cheshire appear to be represented by single banked or ditched enclosures, which could be Iron Age or Roman in date. Two examples of these enclosed sites are in Wimboldsley Parish (MA02_0009, MA02_0014). Dozens of similar enclosures have been identified from cropmarks seen on aerial photography across Cheshire. However, systematic field walking of these cropmarks revealed limited finds from the Iron Age³⁹. Excavated sites at Bruen Stapleford⁴⁰ and Poulton²⁷ in Cheshire, provide evidence of what they may have looked like. Poulton contained eleven roundhouses, enclosed within a larger ditch suggesting a farmstead or small settlement.

³⁵ Moore, T. (2011), *Detribalizing the later prehistoric past: Concepts of tribes in Iron Age and Roman studies*, Journal of Social Archaeology 11/3, P334-360.

³⁶ Tribal names were ascribed by the Romans and did not appear until 2nd century AD.

³⁷ Chiverrell, R., Davies, H. and Marshall, P. (2016), *Environmental changes in lowland Cheshire, Hatchmere and Peckforton Mere*, in Garner, D. Hillforts of the Cheshire Ridge, Archaeopress, Oxford.

³⁸ Garner, D. (2016), *Hillforts of the Cheshire Ridge: Investigations undertaken by The Habitats and Hillforts Landscape Partnership Scheme 2009-2012*, Archaeopress, Oxford.

³⁹ Collens, J. (1999), *Flying on the Edge; Aerial Photography and Settlement patterns in Cheshire and Merseyside*, In: Nevell, M. (ed), *Living on the Edge of Empire: Models, Methodology and Marginality, Late-Prehistoric and Romano-British Rural Settlement in North-West England*, North-West Archaeology, University of Manchester and Chester Archaeology.

⁴⁰ Fairburn et al (2003), *Brook House Farm, Bruen Stapleford: excavation of a 1st millennium BC settlement*, Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society 77, P9-57.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 4.2.15 The Iron Age saw the intensification of salt production along the river systems of the Wheelock, Weaver and Dane Valleys in the mid-Cheshire lowlands. The main known sites are around Middlewich⁴¹ and Railway Farm⁴². An indicator of salt-working sites and trade is also provided by fragments of pottery vessels used in salt production known as Very Coarse Pottery (VCP). It has been recovered from sites throughout Cheshire, north-west England, the English midlands and north Wales⁴³. This suggests that salt was being produced at inland sites and exported throughout the region in the Iron Age period. Possible evidence of this has been identified within the Middlewich area of archaeological potential (MA02_0292). It may also have been occurring in other locations on the river valleys of the Wheelock, Weaver and Dane including Northwich⁴⁴.
- 4.2.16 There is a scarcity of other artefact types from the Iron Age in the region. Some metalwork does survive, including functional and decorative bronze and copper items. There has been a notable concentration of horse gear discovered in Cheshire, which may indicate the importance of horse ownership⁴⁵ and the pastoral economy during this period.
- 4.2.17 Overall, locating prehistoric sites in Cheshire, particularly in the lowlands, is challenging. The effectiveness of geophysical survey in north-west England has been analysed and its weakness demonstrated on areas where later alluvium in river valleys covers the site⁴⁶. However, geophysical survey undertaken as part of the current work has identified features on the glacial tills (see BID HE-004-0MA02). Fieldwalking is sparsely undertaken in Cheshire due to the high incidence of pasture in the region⁴⁷. Where it has been undertaken it has

⁴¹ Williams, M. and Reid, M. (2008), *Salt: Life and Industry, Excavations at King Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, 2001-2002*, British Archaeological Reports, Archaeopress.

⁴² Nevell, M. (2005), 'Salt-making in Cheshire; The Iron Age Background' in Nevell, M. and Fielding, A. *Brine in Britannia: Recent Archaeological Work on the Roman Salt Industry in Cheshire*, Archaeology North West Volume 7, University of Manchester and the Lion Salt Works Trust, P9-14.

⁴³ Morris, E. (1985), *Prehistoric salt distributions; two case studies from western Britain*, Bulletin of the Board for Celtic Studies 32, P336-379.

Kinory, J. (2012), *Salt Production, Distribution and Use in the British Iron Age*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 559, Archaeopress, Oxford.

⁴⁴ Nevell, M. and Fielding, A. (2005), *Salt Making in Cheshire: The Iron Age Background* in Nevell, M. and Fielding, A. *Brine in Britannia: Recent Archaeological Work on the Roman Salt Industry in Cheshire*.

⁴⁵ Oakden, V. (2015), *50 Finds from Cheshire: Objects from the Portable Antiquity Scheme*, Amberley Publishing Ltd.

⁴⁶ Jordan, D. (2009), *How Effective is Geophysical Survey? A Regional Review*, Archaeological Prospection 16/2, P77-90.

⁴⁷ Newman, R. (2006), *North-West Regional Research Framework: The Early Medieval Resource Assessment*. Available online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>.

identified individual worked flints but very few large scatters of flints in this part of Cheshire⁴⁸.

4.3 Roman (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.3.1 The Roman period began in Cheshire with the expansion of Roman occupation north of the midlands from AD 70. Roman occupation was characterised by a military tier of society that ruled over an indigenous population largely unchanged from the Iron Age. The Roman fortress of Deva Victrix was established at Chester in AD 74 – 75 to enable the control of north Wales and north-west England. It continued to be occupied until the withdrawal of the Romans in AD 410. Around Deva Victrix was a hinterland of agricultural land and production centres that supported the fortress⁴⁹.
- 4.3.2 Important Roman settlements were present at Middlewich (Salinae)⁵⁰ and Northwich (Condate)⁵¹. Forts were present at Castle Hill, Verdin Park in Northwich⁵² and the scheduled monument of King Street Roman Fort at Harbutt's Field in Middlewich (MA02_0085). The forts were surrounded by civilian settlements that would have supplied the armies within, as well as specialising in industrial activity and salt production. Further isolated salt production sites may have existed in rural locations. A potential salt-working site has been indicated by the discovery of lead salt pans by metal-detecting, was probably located at Bank Farm, Bostock (MA02_0082; see BID HE-005-0MA02). Another salt-working site has been identified near Bostock (MA02_0322), identified by rectilinear cropmarks. Salt-working sites excavated and identified in Middlewich on Jersey Way have shown that salt-working required the manipulation of water sources, contained in wooden brine tanks, clay-lined holding tanks and ditch systems to allow the evaporation of brine to produce salt⁵³. The presence of watercourses and Roman roads throughout the study area, as well as possible salt-working sites in the Iron Age (see Section 4.2), indicates a likelihood of further salt working sites in

⁴⁸ Cowell, R. W., and Innes, J. B. (1994), *The Wetlands of Merseyside, North West Wetlands Survey 1*, Lancaster Imprints, Lancaster; Leah, M.D., Wells, C. E., Appleby, C., and Huckerby, E. (1997), *The Wetlands of Cheshire* Lancaster University Archaeological Unit.

⁴⁹ Mason, D. J. P. (2012), *Roman Chester, Fortress at the Edge of the World, 2nd edition*, The History Press.

⁵⁰ Williams, M. and Reid, M. (2008), *Salt: Life and Industry, Excavations at King Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, 2001-2002, British Archaeological Reports British Series 456*, Archaeopress, Oxford; Garner, D. and Reid, M. (2012), *Roman Middlewich: reassessing its form, function and chronology*. *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 83, P37-93; Zant, J. (2016), *Excavations on a Roman Salt-working Site at Jersey Way*, Middlewich, Cheshire, *Archaeological Journal* 173, P56-153.

⁵¹ Shaw, M. and Clark, J. (2003), *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, Warrington: Archaeological Assessment*, Cheshire County Council.

⁵² Jones, G. D. B., Nevell, M. D. and Reynolds, P. (1987), 'Condate: Excavations at Castle, Northwich, 1983-6' *Manchester Archaeological Bulletin* 1, p. 35-7; Jones, G. D. B. (1992), 'Roman Northwich (Condate): excavations in 1990' *Cheshire Past* 1, p. 10-11.

⁵³ Zant, J. (2016), *Excavations on a Roman Salt-working Site at Jersey Way*, Middlewich, Cheshire *Archaeological Journal* 173, P56-153.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

the study area. Later salt-working sites are known throughout the study area (see Section 4.5 and Section 4.6), indicating this industry may have been continuous from the Iron Age period onwards.

- 4.3.3 The Roman settlements were connected by a network of roads spread out across the county. These include Margary 7a (MA02_0191), running from Chester to Northwich and on to the Roman fort of Mamucium (Manchester); King Street between Middlewich and Northwich (Margary 70a, MA02_0154); and, the Roman Road between Middlewich and Nantwich (Margary 700, MA02_0001)⁵⁴. A further possible Roman Road has been identified from place name evidence in Lostock Gralam (MA02_0182).
- 4.3.4 Outside of the main Romanised centres at Northwich and Middlewich, it is probable that the indigenous civilian population continued to live as they had in the Iron Age. These people were almost certainly associated with the tribal group known as the Cornovii (see Section Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC – AD 43)4.2). The Iron Age enclosed settlements identified by aerial photographic evidence⁵⁵ may have continued to be occupied during the Roman period. Continued occupation has been established for rural settlements in Merseyside to the north⁵⁶ and Shropshire to the south⁵⁷. An enclosure in Southworth Quarry, Winwick supported the idea of both Iron Age and Roman period occupation (see BID HE-001-0MA04)⁵⁸. Potential roadside settlement sites may also have been identified by the presence of finds of Roman brooches, in Wimboldsley Parish (MA02_0008) and Roman coins and brooches, in Rudheath Parish (MA02_0162). The general impression is a continuation from the Iron Age of the rural landscape of enclosed settlements or structures into the Roman period⁵⁹.
- 4.3.5 Around these rural settlements the land is likely to have been used for pastoral and arable agriculture. Evidence from pollen preserved on archaeological sites suggests there were few trees and cereal crops present⁶⁰. It has also been suggested that the Cheshire Plains were

⁵⁴ The system of Roman road numbering is based on the work of Ivan Margary in Margary, I. D. (1973), *Roman Roads in Britain*, 3rd edition, John Baker, London.

⁵⁵ Collens, J. (1999), *Flying on the Edge; Aerial Photography and Settlement patterns in Cheshire and Merseyside*, in Nevell, M. ed, *Living on the Edge of Empire: Models, Methodology and Marginality, Late-Prehistoric and Romano-British Rural Settlement in North-West England*, North-West Archaeology Volume 3, University of Manchester and Chester Archaeology.

⁵⁶ Nevell, M. (2004), *The Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement of the Mersey Basin. A Study in Marginality*, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 78, P1-21.

⁵⁷ White, R. and Wigley, A. (2017), *Shropshire in the Roman period* in White, R. and Hodder M. *Clash of Cultures? The Roman-British period in the West Midlands, The Making of the West Midlands* 3, Oxbow Books, Oxford.

⁵⁸ Moore, B. (2014), *Southworth Quarry, Winwick, Excavation of a Roman Rural Settlement*, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 84, P13-38.

⁵⁹ Nevell, M (2004), *The Late Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement of the Mersey Basin. A Study in Marginality*, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 78, P1-21.

⁶⁰ Philpott, R. (2006), *North-West Regional Research Framework: Roman Resource Assessment*. Available online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>.

ideally suited for the development of meat production. The presence of pastoral land and salt for the curing process would allow the supply of the Roman military with a bulk supply of meat⁶¹. Organised Roman field systems, including ditches, enclosures and trackways have been identified in Middlewich⁶². This suggests a mutual relationship between the Roman military who existed in the major towns and the indigenous population who lived in the rural countryside.

4.4 Early medieval (AD 410 – 1066)

- 4.4.1 In the early medieval period archaeological evidence becomes increasingly scant, and our knowledge of the period is largely dependent on documentary sources. After the withdrawal of Roman rule in the 5th century AD the region fragmented into small kingdoms. The expansion of Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia in the 7th to the 10th century saw it take control of the region south of the Mersey, with Northumbria extending its influence from the north. During the 8th and 9th centuries AD the region was politically unstable, with an increased influence from Scandinavians and the Hiberno-Norse. By the early 10th century, firstly Mercia and then the expanding Kingdom of Wessex exerted their influence up to the River Mersey⁶³. The system of shires and hundreds that formed the modern county of Cheshire based around Chester came into existence for the first time as the part of the sub-division of Mercia⁶⁴.
- 4.4.2 The general pattern of post-Roman settlement in this area is best understood by place-name studies⁶⁵ or later documentary evidence provided by the Domesday Survey⁶⁶. This is supplemented by historic landscape studies, but archaeological evidence is scant. Middlewich and Northwich are recorded in the Domesday Survey. It refers to the towns as 'Wiches', and directly records the tolls and customs applied to the salt trade. It is not clear though, whether these towns continued to be occupied unbroken from the Roman period through the early medieval period⁶⁷.

⁶¹ Jones, G. D. B. and Mattingley, D. (1990), *An Atlas of Roman Britain*, London.

⁶² Williams, M. and Reid, M. (2008), *Salt: Life and Industry, Excavations at King Street, Middlewich, Cheshire, 2001-2002*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series 456; Garner, D. and Reid, M. (2012), *Roman Middlewich: reassessing its form, function and chronology*. Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society 83, P37-93; Zant, J. (2016), *Excavations on a Roman Salt-working Site at Jersey Way, Middlewich*, Cheshire Archaeological Journal 173, P56-153.

⁶³ Harris, B. E., and Thacker, A.T. (1987), *The Victoria History of the County of Chester*. (Volume 1: Physique, Prehistory, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Domesday), Oxford University Press.

⁶⁴ Gelling, M. (1992), *The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*, Leicester University Press.

⁶⁵ Dodgson, J. M. N. (1981), *The Place Names of Cheshire*, Cambridge University Press.

⁶⁶ Powell-Smith, A. (2013), *Open Domesday*. Available online at: <https://opendomesday.org>, based on data created by Palmer, J. J. N. (1990), *Hull Domesday Project*, University of Hull.

⁶⁷ Gelling, M. (1992), *The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*, Leicester University Press.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 4.4.3 In general terms, place name evidence suggests a mixture of native British, Old English and Old Norse speakers. In particular -burh, -ham and -tun place names, in Cheshire suggest early foci for settlement. North of Crewe the place name of Davenham follows this convention and suggests it may have been in existence from the 8th or 9th centuries. It is certain that the settlements of Davenham, Bostock, Lach Dennis, and Over (now Winsford) by the 10th and 11th century as they are recorded in the Domesday Survey⁶⁶. However, the evidence suggests a landscape of isolated hamlets and small farmsteads that went on to form the villages that survive to the present day at Davenham, Bostock, and Lach Dennis.
- 4.4.4 Although Christianity was introduced to Britain in the Roman period, Anglo-Saxon settlers introduced their own pagan religion. However, it is apparent that Christianity was reintroduced to Cheshire by at least the 9th century as demonstrated by the Sandbach crosses south-east of the study area⁶⁸, but was likely present by as early as the late 7th to early 8th century. The earliest evidence for Christianity in the study area is from the Domesday Survey that records a church at Middlewich and a priest at Davenham⁶⁷.
- 4.4.5 The agricultural field systems around these settlements are likely to have formed in the early medieval period (see Volume 5, HE-003-0MA02). Most early fields identified in the study area are small (less than five hectares) and generally have irregular patterns more common to northern England. However, there are some smaller ‘town fields’ around Lach Dennis and Lostock Green that suggest a version of the field system common to the English midlands was occasionally practised in the North of England⁶⁹. These were used by the people of the village to cultivate crops using human and animal manure. The irregular shaped small fields referred to as ‘outfields’ that would be farmed in rotation for cereal crops and left fallow for animal pasture⁷⁰. Geophysical survey at Park Farm (MA02_0328) has identified archaeological features. These are of unknown origin but relate to an area of surviving 9th and 10th century field systems within MA02_HLCA01, Stanthorne (see Volume 5, HE-003-0MA02).
- 4.4.6 The Domesday Survey evidence from 1086 suggests that central and eastern Cheshire was more heavily wooded than the area west of the mid Cheshire sandstone ridge. This is supported by place name evidence in the form of woodland names (leah, wood and hurst) that correlate with the woodland locations in the Domesday Survey. Larger parishes were located east of the sandstone ridge probably as a result of them including areas of common or marginal land such as woodland or heathland⁷¹. The presence of heaths and mosses means that the landscape was probably sparsely occupied by people outside the main river

⁶⁸ Hawkes, J. (2002), *The Sandbach Crosses*, Four Courts Press.

⁶⁹ Edwards, R. (2007), *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*, Cheshire County Council and English Heritage.

⁷⁰ Sylvester, D. F. (1956), The Open Fields of Cheshire, *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire* 108.

⁷¹ Sylvester, D. (1962), *Cheshire in the Dark Ages: A Map Study of Celtic and Anglian Settlement*.

valleys (see Section 3). Much of the area also has poorer soils particularly the glacial tills. The conclusion that the area was heavily wooded is supported by evidence from palaeoenvironmental examination of the river terrace deposits of the River Dane that suggest a major phase of medieval soil erosion occurred as a result of later clearance of these woodlands between AD 800 and the 19th century⁷².

4.5 Medieval (1066 – 1540)

- 4.5.1 At the start of the medieval period at the Norman conquest in 1066, a new ruling elite replaced the previous Anglo-Saxons lords. The settlement pattern of towns and villages, and the agricultural landscape remained largely unchanged from the early medieval period. North-west England continued to be relatively sparsely populated when compared to other parts of the country.
- 4.5.2 Middlewich and Northwich are the largest settlements in the study area mentioned in the Domesday Survey⁶⁶. Both include the Old English-wich place name element associated with Anglo-Saxon artisanal or trade towns. These settlements were likely established prior to the Norman conquest, gradually growing into the main towns within the study area and gaining an association with the salt trade by the 11th century. Their development is largely due to their location over the Wikesley and Northwich halite deposits (salt deposits). These have been utilised for their salt bearing layers from the Prehistoric period (see Section 2.1, Section 4.2 and Section 4.3). Brine springs occurred where the river courses eroded the existing geological strata, exposing fractures where saltwater came to the surface under artesian pressure. Salt-working districts developed around the brine springs. Over time, they developed beyond their medieval core utilising the flat surrounding plain of the Croco, Dane and Weaver river valleys⁷³.
- 4.5.3 Middlewich and Northwich were centres for other medieval industries. These industries included pottery production, leather manufacture and other rural crafts such as woodworking or basket weaving using organic materials that are not generally visible in the archaeological record. Additionally, Middlewich and Northwich provided market centres, serving the surrounding countryside. Their principal churches are the Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0068; see below) in Middlewich and the Church of St Helen, Northwich (MA02_0258). The churches sit within a medieval street pattern and the original medieval buildings of these streets would have been timber-framed; however, no examples survive. Now, the medieval cores of Middlewich (MA02_0066) and Northwich (MA02_0264), respectively, are conservation areas.

⁷² Hooke et al (1990), *The chronology and stratigraphy of the alluvial terraces of the River Dane, Cheshire, NW England*, *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 15, P717-737.

⁷³ Cheshire County Council (2003a), *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, Northwich Archaeological Assessment*, Cheshire County Council; Cheshire East Council (2013), *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, Middlewich Revised Archaeological Assessment*, Cheshire County Council.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gramam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 4.5.4 The Norman Conquest resulted in the introduction of the feudal system which meant that most land was controlled by a ruling elite who owned small manors of villages, hamlets and farmsteads⁷⁴. In the 11th century Cheshire was granted Palatine status which allowed earls to exercise powers normally reserved for the crown. This provided the Earl of Chester significant autonomy over administration, governance and taxation of the area.
- 4.5.5 It seems probable that many of the manors in the study area were in existence prior to the Norman conquest. However, by the time Domesday Survey was compiled in 1086 many of the settlements are recorded as waste⁷⁵. A large part of Cheshire seems to have suffered economically as part of the military campaigns of William the Conqueror in 1068 referred to as the Harrying of the North. Comparing the records of the Domesday Survey and settlement today it is clear that few densely populated villages existed. Instead, the pattern of settlement was one of isolated farmsteads and hamlets like those in Wimboldsley and Clive Green. Not every settlement mentioned in the Domesday Survey survives. A pattern of settlement desertion is recognised across England in the 14th century, a major cause of which is the collapse in population caused by the Black Death (bubonic plague). Near Whatcroft Hall there may be a shrunken village (MA02_0123); a village or hamlet later abandoned due to a reduction in population. A similar lost settlement was possibly centred on the former manor house at Croxton (MA02_0086), which was demolished in the 19th century. However, it is now thought that settlement in this part of Cheshire was largely isolated individual residences. Transport between the rural settlements was by trackways and roads. Examples of trackways survive in Stanthorne and Wimboldsley parish connecting the small hamlets together (MA02_0011, MA02_0025, MA02_0335).
- 4.5.6 The lords of the manor generally occupied halls. In Cheshire they were usually timber-framed buildings that do not tend to survive. Evidence for the original locations of the manor house is often associated with a type of archaeological monument referred to as a moated site. The reason for digging moats is not entirely clear, although in the main it is thought to be to express social status or secure the site from livestock rather than as a defensive structure. Moated sites are thought to originate in the 12th to 13th centuries. They have a central platform surrounded by a rectangular or square moat although a small number of round or oval ones have been noted. Most moated sites lie below 150m above ordnance datum on glacial till across the region. Generally, the platform contains a hall which is predominantly timber framed, though with some examples have foundation walls⁷⁶. Many

⁷⁴ Jupp, K. (2000), European Feudalism from Its Emergence through Its Decline, *The American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 59.

⁷⁵ This includes settlements described as waste, including Occlstone [Green], Wimboldsley, Weaver, Clive [Green], Wharton, Bostock, Shipbrook, [Higher and Lower] Shurlach, and Lach Dennis in the Study Area. Powell-Smith, A. (2013), *Open Domesday*. Available online at: <https://opendomesday.org>, based on data created by Palmer, J. J. N. (1990), *Hull Domesday Project*, University of Hull.

⁷⁶ Heawood *et al* (2004), *Old Abbey farm, Risley; Building survey and excavation at a Medieval moated site*, Lancaster Imprints.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

moated sites are scheduled, surviving either beneath later buildings (such as Kinderton Hall, MA02_0087 and Holford Hall, MA02_0188) or as earthworks (such as Bostock Hall, MA02_0094 and Drakelow Hall, MA02_0127). Others survive only partially such as the example at Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0120) which forms part the ornamental gardens (see 4.6.4). Moated sites tend to be isolated in this part of Cheshire. Within the manor were other buildings which provided income and were controlled by the lord. This included the manorial corn mill, an example being Holford Mill (MA02_0193).

- 4.5.7 The other principal institution of a settlement was the church. Many churches are post-medieval in date but replaced earlier medieval churches. A good example is Davenham which has a church recorded in the Domesday Survey, which was replaced by a later medieval church and subsequently the Grade II* listed Church of St Wilfrid (MA02_0145). The church formed the centre of parishes which were medieval in origin. Over time boundaries between these medieval parishes were formalised, often with physical features. An example is found between the parishes of Rudheath and Shipbrook that were delineated by a bank and ditch (MA02_0150). Shipbrook was a medieval parish that no longer exists, between Davenham and Rudheath. Former Parish Boundaries have also been identified in Rudheath (MA02_0160) and at Winnington Belt (MA02_0320). A bank south of Bostock Hall (MA02_0267) may relate to the medieval parish boundary between Stanthorne and Bostock.
- 4.5.8 Royal and Ecclesiastical landowners owned most land around the River Weaver. The Royal Forests of Mara and Mondrem (Delamere) were located west of the River Weaver⁷⁷. Vale Royal Abbey established between 1270–74, owned the manors of Darnhall, Over, (now Winsford) and Weaverham on the eastern side of the River Weaver. It also had property in Middlewich and Northwich⁷⁸. One of the few buildings associated with Vale Royal Abbey in the study area was a medieval hospital in Stanthorne (MA02_0057) but its location is uncertain. In turn, the land of Vale Royal Abbey may have concentrated the manors of secular land holders such as lords in the available land to the east. There is a notable concentration of settlement on the higher land east of the Weaver, and above the River Dane and Wheelock valleys⁶⁶ where the villages could take advantage of the alluvial soils of the river valleys (see Section 2.3). The soils of the mid-Cheshire plains further east on the Stublach and Lostock Plains (see Section 2.2) are generally lower quality overlying glacial tills interspersed with areas of wetland mosses and heath. This precluded dense settlement and there are fewer villages or hamlets.
- 4.5.9 At the time of the Domesday Survey mixed subsistence farming was normal in mid-Cheshire, relying on crops of barley, oats and rye and raising of livestock. The agricultural system of

⁷⁷ Edwards, R. (2007), *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*, Cheshire County Council and English Heritage.

⁷⁸ Baggs, A. P., Kettle A. J., Lander, S. J., Thacker, A. T. and Wardle, D. (1980), *Houses of Cistercian monks: The abbey of Vale Royal*, P156-165 in Elrington, C. R. and Harris, B. E. (ed.) *A History of the County of Chester: Volume 3*, British History Online.

‘town fields’ and small irregular fields developed during the early medieval period continued to be used throughout the medieval period (see Section 3). A correlation can be seen between the fields containing ridge and furrow and the earliest medieval villages and moated sites described above (see HE-003-0MA02 and BID HE-005-0MA02). These fields survive in the pattern of hedgerows (see Section 3) but many have been removed and only survive as archaeological remains. A row of pits at Park Hall Farm (MA02_0269) may relate to a medieval or post-medieval field boundary. The earliest enclosure⁷⁹ of marginal heathlands and mosslands begins in this period in Wimboldsley and the Stublach and Lostock Plain (see Section 3). Many of these original fields have been eradicated by changing agricultural practices. However, elements are still visible as crop marks, for example an enclosure in Wimboldsley parish (MA02_0016) may be a remnant part of a medieval field system.

4.6 Post medieval (1540 – 1901)

- 4.6.1 The post-medieval period is generally taken to start with the Reformation, following which much ecclesiastical property passed into secular hands. This period witnessed the transformation of north-west England from relatively impoverished and sparsely populated, to a key region in the early stages of Britain’s industrialisation and globalisation. Rapid change to the study area came from the late 17th century when the salt industry expanded, and new infrastructure was introduced in the form of improved roads, canals and railways in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 4.6.2 Middlewich (MA02_0066) and Northwich (MA02_0264) continued to be important market centres. The original timber-framed buildings were replaced by brick during the post-medieval period. Industrial development of the salt industry (see Section 5.3) resulted in the expansion of these towns from the 17th century. The growing population resulted in new streets of brick terraces and villas. Cemeteries were laid out to facilitate the increased demand for capacity as populations grew. The development of the building stock of these towns is discussed in more detail in Section 5.3 below.
- 4.6.3 In contrast, rural settlement evolved slowly from the medieval period. Hamlets and farmsteads (see Section 4.5) continued to be the main settlement type. However, some settlements coalesced in the post-medieval period into larger villages. Lostock Green originally consisted of a linear settlement along Birches Lane of individual farmsteads and cottages. During the 18th and 19th century, further houses occupied the land plots between the farmsteads until the linear layout of the village emerged. At Bostock Green the village

⁷⁹ Enclosure (sometimes inclosure) was the legal process in England enclosing land. Once enclosed, use of the land became restricted and available only to the owner, and it ceased to be common land for communal use.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

developed on the edge of the Bostock Estate. The date and development of the buildings coincide with the building of Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) in the late-18th century⁸⁰.

- 4.6.4 The moated medieval manors continued to be occupied but their importance and social status diminished. Holford Hall (MA02_0189), for example, was a large formal timber-framed farmhouse⁸¹. A new gentry emerged of wealthy landowners who made their income in industry and commerce. These wealthy new land holders commissioned new houses and large estates emerged⁸². An early example is the Grade II* listed Lea Hall (MA02_0020) which originally dates to the 17th century. Large country estates developed along the Dane Valley from the 18th century, including Stanthorne Hall (MA02_0076), Bostock Hall (MA02_0104), and Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124). They often had designed parks of informal naturalistic landscaping influenced by Capability Brown. These often swept away earlier formal landscapes and diverted public roads around perimeter walls. A possible drainage ditch which may be associated with the parkland at Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0329) has been identified by geophysical survey within the study area. The riverside location of Whatcroft Park means it may have been necessary to drain this land for the estate's landscaping. Wealthy businessman developed some of the estates in Cheshire⁸³. Sir Joseph Verdin who owned the Lea Hall estate made his money as a salt manufacturer in Northwich, Winsford and Middlewich⁸⁴. The France family who owned and developed Bostock Hall in the 19th century were traders from Liverpool⁸⁵. The built heritage of these halls and estates are discussed in greater detail in Section 5.3 below. It was a period of land reorganisation in mid-Cheshire.
- 4.6.5 Marginal land was brought into agricultural use in this period, including areas of heath and mossland. Little heathland remains and its location is indicated by place names such as Rudheath. Only Holford Moss to the east of Northwich survives in situ⁸⁶ but, as discussed previously, is much reduced in extent (see Section 2.3). Unimproved land was brought in to use by private enclosure and Parliamentary Acts of Enclosure⁸³. The viability of the enclosed land was improved by either draining in the case of the mosslands or marling in the case of the soils above the glacial tills. Marl was dug from pits, often within the fields themselves, and spread across fields to improve soil fertility⁸⁷. The remnants of the marling process are visible in the landscape of the Cheshire plain as a series of large pits between field

⁸⁰ Bostock, T. and McLellan's J. (2010), *Bostock: A History of a Village and its People*, Bostock Parish Council.

⁸¹ Pevsner, N. and Hubbard, E. (2003), *Cheshire, The Buildings of England*, 2nd edition, Yale University Press.

⁸² de Figueiredo, P. and Treuherz, J. (1988), *Cheshire Country Houses*, Phillimore.

⁸³ Edwards, R. (2007), *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*, Cheshire County Council and English Heritage.

⁸⁴ Calvert, A. K. F. (1915), *Salt in Cheshire*, E. and F. N. Spon.

⁸⁵ Bostock, T. and McLellan's J. (2010), *Bostock: A History of a Village and its People*, Bostock Parish Council.

⁸⁶ Leah et al. (1997), *The Wetlands of Cheshire*, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, Lancaster.

⁸⁷ Mathew, W. M. (1993), *Marling in British Agriculture: A Case of Partial Identity*, *Agricultural History Review* 41-2, P97-110.

boundaries. They are often reused as watering holes for cattle and have become overgrown with willow trees.

- 4.6.6 The process of enclosure was driven by the increase in dairy farming to meet the demand for milk, butter and cheese particularly from the growing urban centres of Manchester and Liverpool. There was an increase in the number of dairy farms and red brick farmhouses from the 18th century⁸⁸. Cheese in the post-medieval period was an artisan trade and was largely made within butteries located on the individual farms⁸⁹. Some farms replaced earlier manorial centres such as Kinderton Hall (MA02_0084). The majority were newly built as individual estates reorganised their land. The Lea Hall estate had several farms and estate cottages on its land around Wimboldsley. The development of rural agricultural buildings is discussed in more detail below (see Section 5.3). Land reorganisation also resulted in the abandonment of farm buildings. Good examples of this are seen on the marginal heath lands around Rudheath on the Stublach Plain. These include a structure (MA02_0159) and a possible house site (MA02_0149) which survive as archaeological remains.
- 4.6.7 Transport corridors, including the canals, railways and roads connected the towns of mid Cheshire following the higher ground above the valley floor and utilising the flat landscape of the plains. The roads of Cheshire had Roman or medieval origins and were in very poor condition in the post-medieval period. The road system was improved by the introduction of turnpikes from the mid-18th century. Local trustees were given powers regulated through Acts of Parliament to levy tolls on the users of a specified stretch of road, generally around 20 miles in length. Using money secured against this toll income, a trust arranged to improve and maintain a particular stretch of turnpike road. The former Roman Road of King Street (MA02_0154) between Northwich and Middlewich (the present day A530/ B5039 King Street) was turnpiked in 1752. The road from Middlewich and Chester that passed via Winsford Bridge and the road between Northwich and Altrincham (A556 Chester Road) were turnpiked in stages between 1753 and 1769. The Nantwich to Middlewich road (A530 Nantwich Road) was not completed until 1835⁹⁰.
- 4.6.8 The 18th and 19th century saw the improvement of Cheshire's rivers and the construction of canals. The River Weaver was made navigable on its lower reaches as far as Winsford and included the introduction of eleven locks from 1720 to 1732⁹¹. The Trent and Mersey Canal (MA02_0114; MA02_0314) was constructed between 1766 to 1777 and covered a total length of 93 miles from Derwent Mouth on the River Trent to Preston Brook on the Bridgewater

⁸⁸ Foster, C. F. (1998), *Cheshire Cheese and Farming in the North-West in the 17th and 18th Centuries*, Arley Hall Press.

⁸⁹ Blundel, R. and Tregear, A. (2006), *From artisans to factories: The interpenetration of craft and industry in English cheese-making, 1650–1950*, *Enterprise and Society* 7, P705–39.

⁹⁰ Harrison, W. (1866), *The development of the Turnpike System in Lancashire and Cheshire*, *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian* 4, P80-92.

⁹¹ Hadfield, C. and Biddle, G. (1970), *The Canals of North West England, Volume 1*, David and Charles.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Canal. It was surveyed by James Brindley and financially supported by Josiah Wedgwood to help connections between his potteries in Stoke-on-Trent and the existing river network⁹². It is now a conservation area (in two parts) throughout the study area. The Shropshire Union Canal was formed of several existing canals in 1846. The earliest part was the Chester Canal between Chester and Nantwich constructed under an Act of Parliament in 1772. The Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037), was one of the last lengths to be completed from 1827–1835 and extended from Barbridge Junction to Middlewich where it connected with the Trent and Mersey Canal⁹³.

- 4.6.9 Rail transport was introduced from the mid-19th century. The Grand Junction Railway (MA02_0238) opened in 1837 and included the section between Crewe and Warrington⁹⁴. This resulted in the construction of a railway bridge over the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0024) and a length of embankment east of Wimboldsley Wood (MA02_0021). Most of the railway runs on a low embankment through the flat Wimboldsley Plain. The Cheshire Midland Railway (MA02_0183) was created when the Midland Railways Altrincham Line was extended to Northwich in 1863. Shortly afterwards this was absorbed into the Cheshire Lines Committee, a group of companies with railway interests in Cheshire and South Lancashire⁹⁵. The railway runs from Altrincham through Lostock Gralam to Northwich on a combination of shallow cutting, low embankments and viaducts. The London and North Western Railway, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0239) was built from 1867–1868⁹⁶. It runs south from Northwich to Middlewich in cuttings, embankments and viaducts, particularly where it crosses the Trent and Mersey Canal.
- 4.6.10 Salt-making and extraction was undertaken on an industrial scale in the post-medieval period, both as a continuation of previous sites and the establishment of new areas for salt working. The salt industry continued largely unchanged in Northwich and Middlewich during the 16th and 17th century⁹⁷. However, the discovery of buried halite layers led to the development of salt mines and salt works based on brine-pumping. The mines and salt

⁹² Vale Royal Borough (2000), *Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area Appraisal*, Cheshire County Council. Available online at: <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-consultancy/total-environment/conservation-and-design/conservation-area-appraisals/TrentMerseyCanalConservationArea.pdf>.

⁹³ Hadfield, C. (1985), *The Canals of the West Midlands*, 3rd edition, David and Charles.

⁹⁴ Webster, N. W. (1972), *Britain's First Trunk Line, the Grand Junction Railway*, Adams and Dart.

⁹⁵ Bolger, P. (1984), *An illustrated history of the Cheshire Lines Committee*, Heyday.

⁹⁶ Holt, G. (1978), *A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain, Volume 10, The North West*, David and Charles.

⁹⁷ Cheshire County Council (2003b), *Cheshire Historic Town Survey: Northwich*, Cheshire County Council. Available online at: http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/HTS_Arch_Assess_Northwich.pdf.

Cheshire East Council (2013b), *Cheshire Historic Town Survey, Middlewich*, Cheshire County Council. Available online at: http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/HTS_Arch_Assess_Middlewich-Revised-20131.pdf.

works were built where the halite layers came closest to the surface north-east of Middlewich, north-east of Northwich and in Lostock Gralam. When the River Weaver became navigable it allowed salt to be transported from Winsford and this developed from a small village to a large town in the 18th century. In 1873 Brunner Mond licensed the UK rights to the Solvay ammonia-soda process⁹⁸ to produce soda ash for the cotton industry. They started their first factory in Winnington north of Northwich and utilised brine from the salt industry. This became the starting point for the chemical industry in Cheshire. Through the latter part of the 19th century this became an increasingly important industry around Northwich. The large chemical works at Lostock Gralam (MA02_0287) was started in 1891 by Bowman, Thompson and Co. Ltd⁹⁹.

- 4.6.11 The new industries led to the expansion of the suburbs around Winsford, Middlewich and Northwich such as Rudheath (see Section 5.3). This led to the growth of brick-making industry to provide building material for the brick-built terraces and villas. Evidence of brick-making has been identified within the study area, such as a Brick-making site by King Street (MA02_0158) and possible clamps at King Street (MA02_0330).
- 4.6.12 The over utilisation of these salt deposits, both by the salt and chemical industry, resulted in subsidence caused by brine pumping dissolving the salt layer and the collapse of salt mines around the historic salt towns. Large-scale subsidence was seen in the 19th and 20th centuries north-west of Northwich and north of Winsford⁸⁴. Subsidence led to the formation of artificial bodies of water known as flashes, examples of which exist at Billinge Green adjacent to and in the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area (MA02_0114).

4.7 Modern (1901 – present)

- 4.7.1 The modern period saw the continuation of many of the social and industrial developments that occurred towards the end of the 19th century. Industry, agriculture and commerce became increasingly mechanised and served global markets. This resulted in changes in where people were employed and where they lived.
- 4.7.2 The chemical industry grew rapidly in the early 20th century. In 1900, Brunner Mond acquired the Lostock Gralam Works. After reconstruction, the plant undertook ammonia-soda production from 1907⁹⁹. Large reservoirs for the Lostock Gralam works were built to the west of Rudheath. To the east the Former Soda Ash and Calcium Nitrate Works at Plumley (MA02_0185) were constructed after the discovery of brine in 1907. During the First World War there was a requirement for munition. Brunner Mond took over the works to

⁹⁸ Solvay Process or Ammonia Soda Process involved bubbling carbon dioxide through a mixture of brine and ammonia to yield sodium bicarbonate which could be converted to soda ash by kiln heating.

⁹⁹ Grace's Guide (2020), *Grace's Guide to British Industrial History*, Brunner Mond and Co, https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Brunner_Mond_and_Co.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

produce ammonium nitrate for the associated munitions works¹⁰⁰ and the Gadbrook Works (MA02_0155) south of Northwich which produced trinitrotoluene (TNT). All these chemical industries rely on salt in solution as a raw material and brine continues to be extracted from the ground (see below).

- 4.7.3 The salt industry of Middlewich, Winsford and Northwich became increasingly mechanised and throughout the 20th century the number of people employed in the industry declined. Most of the traditional salt works, which evaporated brine in open pans, closed to be replaced by mechanised vacuum salt production. One of the exceptions that continued the traditional process was the scheduled and Grade II listed remains of the Lion Salt Works (MA02_0254, MA02_0260, MA02_0261, MA02_0262) in Marston¹⁰¹. The chemical and salt industry is still an active element of the landscape as areas including Holford Moss have been adopted for salt-solution mining for brine.
- 4.7.4 Profound changes to the landscape around the major towns of Middlewich, Winsford and Northwich occurred as economic decline in the major industries occurred from the 1960s. This was exacerbated by the continued impact of subsidence linked to salt extraction in the 19th century, which restricted new development to certain areas of these towns. However, regeneration saw former areas of subsidence, north of Winsford and north-east of Northwich, transformed into nature reserves and country parks. In the later 20th century, the towns expanded again. Winsford became an overspill town for Manchester and Liverpool from the 1950s¹⁰². A second wave of expansion occurred in the late-20th century, as these towns accommodated new industries and commuters from the major cities of Liverpool and Manchester. Northwich expanded southwards from the town centre, and Middlewich and Winsford expanded to the west. Jobs in the chemical and salt industry were replaced by light industry, distribution centres and retail parks in new industrial estates. New roads were built, including the A556 Shurlach Road around Northwich. It was started in the 1930s and the section around Rudheath and Lostock Gralam was completed in the 1970s. A new bypass to the east of Davenham (A533) was built in the early 1990s¹⁰³. Most rural villages in the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area remained relatively static in size. However, some increased in size with new estates such as Davenham. Others, like Lostock Green, saw infilling between the 19th century cottages.
- 4.7.5 Agriculture, especially dairy farming, continued to be an important industry in Cheshire during the 20th century. Milk began to overtake cheese as the main dairy product in the

¹⁰⁰ Historic England (2018), *Former soda ash and calcium nitrate works*. Available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1450800>; Cocroft, W. D. (2000), *Dangerous Energy, the Archaeology of Gunpowder and Military Explosives Manufacture*, English Heritage.

¹⁰¹ Hewitson, C. (2015), *The Open Pan, The Archaeology and History of the Lion Salt Works*, Lion Salt Works Trust.

¹⁰² Curzon, J. B. (1997), *The Book of Winsford*, Quotes Ltd.

¹⁰³ Tigwell, R. E. (1985), *Cheshire in the 20th Century, Vol. 12*, Cheshire Community Council.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

early 20th century, mainly to supply Manchester and Liverpool¹⁰³. Farm-based cheese production began to decline early in the 20th century and during the Second World War cheese production was transferred to factories¹⁰⁴. Mechanisation of arable farming started during the First World War in order to increase efficiency due to the scarcity of labour. It accelerated with the outbreak of the Second World War and continued throughout the second half of the 20th century¹⁰³. Mechanisation resulted in the use of machinery to plough, cultivate and harvest arable land. To increase efficiency, hedgerows and field boundaries that existed from the medieval period became increasingly removed in the 20th century (see Section 3). Mechanisation also resulted in an increase in farm sizes and larger industrial farm buildings. Smaller farms were amalgamated into larger ones and farmhouses were sold. They often lost the context of their surrounding farm buildings or barns, which were converted into residential properties.

- 4.7.6 The influence of the two world wars is apparent in the landscape. War memorials from the First World War are present in Wharton (MA02_0077), Middlewich (MA02_0245) and Lostock Gralam (MA02_0247). The latter two have a close association with the workforces of the chemical and salt industries as many of the people who worked in these industries would have volunteered to fight. By the Second World War, the landscape of Cheshire was being transformed as part of the Defence of Britain. RAF Cranage Airfield (MA02_0214) in the parish of Byley was opened during the Second World War as a storage facility but quickly became a training centre in 1940. The airfield itself consisted of three grass covered runways. Concrete runways were not constructed but instead army track wire mesh was laid on the runways. Around the former airfield are the scheduled monument of the defences of the airfield (MA02_0218). This includes several concrete structures associated with the function and protection of the airfield from capture as opposed to bombing¹⁰⁵. These monuments include the concrete remains of the battle headquarters building from where defence of the airfield was coordinated, an anti-aircraft gunpost, three upstanding pillboxes, the buried remains of a fourth pillbox, and an aircrew sleeping shelter¹⁰⁶. All are located on or close to the now disused airfield perimeter. Also located around this perimeter are the upstanding remains of a building with a W-shaped blast wall (MA02_0325). This may have been the former command centre, or another operational building associated with the airfield. Associated with the airfield was a War Production Site (MA02_0220) in Byley. A Bombing Decoy Site (MA02_0118) from the Second World War also existed south of Whatcroft Hall. These were used to divert enemy bombing from more strategic targets, such as the Cranage Airfield, towns or industrial production sites.

¹⁰⁴ Blundel, R. and Tregear, A. (2006), *From artisans to factories: The interpenetration of craft and industry in English cheese-making, 1650 – 1950*, Enterprise and Society 7, P705–39.

¹⁰⁵ Ferguson, A. (2008), *Cheshire Airfields in the Second World War*, Countryside Books.

¹⁰⁶ Historic England (2002), *World War II defences of the former airfield of RAF Cranage*. Available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1020762>.

5 Built heritage overview

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section provides an overview of the built heritage resource within the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area (MA02). This overview is intended to assist in understanding the relative heritage value of assets within the study area, by identifying groups and common themes and types of built heritage assets.
- 5.1.2 The landscape of the study area is predominantly agricultural with the towns of Winsford, Middlewich and Northwich flanking the route of the Proposed Scheme and smaller settlements spread throughout the area. The Trent and Mersey Canal (MA02_0314) and the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) both cross the study area and their presence along with their associated infrastructure, such as locks, bridges and mileposts, is a key characteristic of the study area.
- 5.1.3 The local buildings prior to the 18th century were most often constructed of timber frames with thatched roofs. However, in most instances these have been either replaced with later brick buildings or adapted and encased within later brick structures. As a result, brick and slate have come to characterise the built environment within the study area. Rarer examples of timber framed buildings and higher status buildings of locally quarried sandstone provide important examples of early building forms and add variety to the local built heritage resource.

5.2 Medieval (1066 – 1540)

- 5.2.1 No extant buildings predating the medieval period are present within the study area. Timber was the dominant building material during the medieval period as builders took advantage of surrounding woodland areas¹⁰⁷. Timber was used to make frames and roof structures. Around a quarter of Cheshire was still woodland at the beginning of the medieval period, with substantial sections located along the Wheelock and Weaver valleys¹⁰⁸. Managed woodland and plantations are likely to have been exploited for building materials. However, despite the prevalent use of timber, the survival of medieval timber frame buildings within the study area is rare and is invariably obscured by substantial later alterations. Examples include at Hulme Hall (MA02_0255) where the 15th century core of the buildings is obscured beneath 17th century alterations and later additions.

¹⁰⁷ Phillips A. D. M. and Phillips, C. B. (2002), *A new historical atlas of Cheshire*, Cheshire County Council, Chester.

¹⁰⁸ Edwards, R. (2007), *The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation*, Cheshire County Council and English Heritage.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 5.2.2 Where substantial medieval buildings do survive within the study area they are exclusively churches built of local sandstone. These buildings are more likely to survive to the present day by virtue of their status and the longevity of their building material. The Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0068) in Middlewich has fragments dating to the 12th century; however, most of the church was built between 1480 and 1520. The building is set within a churchyard, which includes a separately listed sundial (MA02_0067), surrounded by the medieval streets of Leadsmithy Street, The Bull Ring and High Town. This forms the core of the Middlewich Conservation Area (MA02_0066). The Church of St Helen, Northwich (MA02_0258) is built of local red sandstone and has a 14th century core with substantial late 15th or early 16th century enlargements. The church is set within an extensive graveyard which appears to have been extended, south of Chester Way, in the 19th century. The graveyard also includes a war memorial, a 19th-century lodge and a separately listed sundial (MA02_0257).
- 5.2.3 Both these medieval churches have value due to their historic, artistic and architectural interest. They have formed a focal point of their communities for centuries and act as a physical record of the historical events which would have shaped the lives of the people within their parish limits. Furthermore, they stand as examples of the creative endeavours of multiple generations of craftspeople, architects and designers. Evidence of earlier church structures and various phases of rebuilding and reordering also holds archaeological interest. The churchyard setting of these buildings and their visual relationships with their wider parish contributes to this value by illustrating the historic function and development of the buildings.

5.3 Post medieval (1540 – 1901)

- 5.3.1 Timber continued to be the most used building material in the study area throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. From the 17th century onwards, timbers were blackened in a style known as ‘magpie’ or ‘black and white’ construction, which is characteristic of Cheshire¹⁰⁹. The finer examples of timber framing utilised decorative panels with extravagant use of valuable timber to imply higher status. The frames were generally infilled with wattle and rendered daub; however, later this was commonly replaced by brick – referred to as ‘nogging’. The earliest example within the study area is the Grade II* listed Holford Hall (MA02_0189) which dates to the 17th century. Thatch was used as the predominant roofing material, surviving examples include the Grade II listed Holly Hedge Cottage in Plumley (MA02_0194), the Smoker Inn (MA01_0195) and Rose Cottage, Cranage (MA01_0211).
- 5.3.2 Very few examples of early timber-framed agricultural buildings survive in the study area and this rarity is reflected nationally. Such buildings were generally replaced by brick

¹⁰⁹ Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) (1990), *The Surface Treatment of Timber-Framed Houses: Information Sheet 3*, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, London.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

structures in the late 17th and 18th centuries¹¹⁰. In the study area only four examples survive. The earliest is the Grade II* listed Barn c. 15 yards to the west of Twelve Acres Farmhouse (MA02_0012) which dates to the early 17th century. Slightly later examples are the Grade II listed Farm Building at Manor Farm (MA02_0136), Marsh Farmhouse (MA02_0147), and the Shippon and Former Barn 15m north-west of Park Farmhouse (MA02_0176). These buildings are either single-storey or two-storey, timber-framed, post and truss construction. Originally, they are likely to have had thatch roofs, but these have been replaced by tile and slate. It is likely that they were used as cow sheds, with the upper storey utilised for fodder, the only example within the study area where this can be confirmed is the shippon¹¹¹ at Park Farmhouse.

5.3.3 Across the post-medieval period improvements in technology and the ready availability of local clay sources meant that buildings were increasingly built from brick¹⁰⁷. Clay, a key ingredient in brickmaking, was a readily available resource in the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area, found close to alluvial deposits and within the tills of the Cheshire Plain (see Section 2). This meant bricks were cheap to produce. Most were red in colour and hand-made¹¹². Initially brick was used on high status buildings as an innovative new material, as at the Grade II* listed Lea Hall (MA02_0020) which dates to the late 17th or early 18th century⁸². Brick was also often used in conjunction with timber framing as an infill material between the timbers, as at the late 17th century Dairy House Farmhouse (MA02_0027) and the 17th century Bridge End Farmhouse (MA02_0135). From the 18th century onwards, brick became the prevailing building material for all buildings in Cheshire, replacing timber as the structural elements of most buildings. Early brick buildings include the mid-17th and early 18th century Newhall Farmhouse (MA02_0151), Park Farmhouse, Lostock Green (MA02_0174), Stanthorne Lodge (MA02_0078) and Yew Tree Farm House (MA02_0152). By the later 19th century brick would become commonplace and be used for low status buildings such as workers cottages. This can be seen at 1-4 Railway Cottages (MA02_0004). Over the 17th and 18th centuries tile and slate also replaced thatch as the most widespread roofing material. The use of slate was driven by the rapid expansion of slate mining in North Wales from the mid-18th century, coupled with the improvement of transport links which gave easy access to the material in nearby Cheshire¹¹³.

5.3.4 The post-medieval period saw the growth of gentry families and their estates within the study area built on the wealth of the salt industry, trade and agriculture. The focus of power shifted from moated manor houses to large country houses surrounded by gardens and parkland (see section 4.6). Often these evolved on the same, or neighbouring sites. Smaller country houses or mansions and their estates are found along the River Dane valley. This

¹¹⁰ Brunskill, R. W. (1999), *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their Conservation*, 3rd Edition, Victor Gollancz Ltd.

¹¹¹ Shippon is a traditional name for a cow barn, or cattle shed.

¹¹² Brunskill, R. W. (1997), *Brick Building in Britain*, 2nd edition, Victor Gollancz Ltd.

¹¹³ Lindsay, J. (1974), *A History of the North Wales Slate Industry*, David and Charles.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

reflects their association with former medieval manors which occupied the better farmland around the valley (see Section 4.5). It also reflects the new rich elite who developed on the wealth of the salt industry (see Section 4.6) and chose to reside outside the polluted towns of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford. They include the Grade II* listed Lea Hall (MA02_0020) and Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124), and the Grade II listed Stanthorne Hall (MA02_0076), and Davenham Hall and lodge (MA02_0130, MA02_0134)⁸². In some instances, structures associated with the former estates survive as well as the country houses. For example, at Lea Hall the former gatepiers of the primary entrance survive and are Grade II listed (MA02_0019).

- 5.3.5 The best example in the study area of one of these estates is Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). The original hall was probably located within the scheduled Bostock Hall Moated Site (MA02_0094). This was abandoned for a site approximately 850m north in the late 18th century. The new hall was built in 1775 to designs by Samuel Wyatt. Wyatt was known as a specialist in country houses, model farms and subsidiary buildings¹¹⁴. The parkland which surrounds the hall may well have been landscaped by William Emes, an associate of Wyatt's, who was regarded as the 'Capability Brown of the North'⁸². These landscape architects worked to produce an informal, naturalistic style of landscaping which swept away earlier formal landscapes and diverted public roads around the perimeter wall. The estate parkland includes the Grade II listed boat house (MA02_0105), walled garden (MA02_0106), stable and cottage (MA02_0108), agricultural buildings (MA02_0109, MA02_0110, MA02_0112), and entrance lodges (MA02_0097, MA02_0115) all dating to the 19th century.
- 5.3.6 The estate village of Bostock Green to the north-west utilises red-brick domestic revival architecture throughout and represents one of the best-preserved country estates in Mid-Cheshire. It retains a rural atmosphere despite the expansion of Winsford Industrial Estate to the south-west and the intensification of traffic on the central road through the linear settlement. The village, together with the hall and parkland makes up the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113). Bostock Hall is of national importance, together the halls, service buildings, parkland and estate village illustrate the development of the hall since the 18th century, they document the changing fashions and styles and, also, the changing fortunes of the owners and the wider economy (see Section 4.6). The work of multiple architects, artists and craftspeople is contained within the boundaries of the conservation area, the majority of which is of high quality and by named individuals. The parkland and village form the setting for those assets within their boundaries, illustrating their historic context¹¹⁵.
- 5.3.7 In the 18th and 19th centuries much of the study area was in use as agricultural land holdings, Consequently, many of the post-medieval buildings within the study area are related to agricultural use. Most agricultural buildings within the study area date to the late

¹¹⁴ Robinson, J. M. (1979), *The Wyatts, an Architectural Dynasty*, Oxford University Press.

¹¹⁵ Vale Royal Borough Council (2003), *Bostock Conservation Area Appraisal*, Vale Royal Borough Council.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

18th and 19th century and belong to a period of agricultural improvement (see Section 3 and Section 4.6). This improvement was reflected in agricultural buildings as new planned set-piece farms were built, often associated with the major estates. Within the study area these buildings follow a recognisable pattern which represent a wider Cheshire style associated with the dairy industry. The farmsteads feature substantial red brick farmhouses, with slate roofs, accompanied by ranges of farm buildings, often forming a courtyard space to the side of the farmhouse on a L-shaped or U-shaped plan. Examples of this form can be seen at Grade II listed Park Farmhouse, Clive Green Lane (MA02_0033), Yew Tree Farmhouse, off Coal Pit Lane (MA02_0047), Bank Farmhouse (MA02_0093) and Old Hall Farmhouse (MA02_0095). Towards the end of the 19th century, they become less elaborate as seen in the simple practical designs of the non-designated Greenheys Farm, Bostock Road (MA02_0089), Higgins Lane Farm (MA02_0141), High House Farm (MA02_0161) and Robin Hood Cottage (MA02_0178). These are generally two stories high, two bays wide and with simple plans and a practical layout of red brick farm buildings.

- 5.3.8 These farm buildings give character to the landscape and a local distinctiveness to the wider area as a result of their uniformity and frequency. Most farm buildings within the study area survive in a rural context as working farm buildings where the relationship between the farm buildings and the land can be readily understood. The survival of the agricultural setting contributes to the value of these buildings by aiding in the ready appreciation of the historic function of the buildings. In contrast other former farmhouses are no longer associated with active working farms, such as Bridge Cottage and Canal Cottage (MA02_0125). Some of these former farmhouses retain a rural, agricultural setting; however, some, such as Robin Hood Cottage (MA02_0178), have lost this context due to later development.
- 5.3.9 A distinctive style of farm and estate buildings appear to have developed around the Lea Hall estate. The estate was owned by the salt proprietor Sir Joseph Verdin and his family in the 19th century. The principal building of Lea Hall is a late-17th or early-18th century small country house. The estate buildings utilise a local variation on the Tudor revival style in brick and half-timbered frames. Two non-designated farmhouses, Wimboldsley Hall and Barns (MA02_0005) and Twelve Acres Farmhouse (also known as Wimboldsley Grange; MA02_0013) also adopt this style. Other estate buildings are focused on the A530 Nantwich Road, including the non-designated Estate Cottages (also known as School Cottages; MA02_0015), Leahead Cottages (MA02_0026) and the Verdin Arms Public House (MA02_0003). The Verdin family may have utilised builders and architects who were familiar with timber-framed building techniques in Northwich where salt-subsidence and local bylaws passed in 1881 had influenced building design, creating liftable timber-framed buildings utilising Elizabethan decoration¹¹⁶.

¹¹⁶ Northwich Heritage (2020), *Northwich's Unique Timber Framed Buildings*, Available online at: <https://www.northwich-th.co.uk/history/northwichs-unique-timber-framed-buildings/>.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 5.3.10 Dairy House Farm (now Stanthorne Park Mews; MA02_0028) dates to the 1890s and is an example of a model farm, also associated with the Lea Hall Estate. It has a brick and half-timbered farmhouse and enclosed courtyard of barns which have now been converted to residential use. Their design may have been influenced by the Cheshire architect John Douglas who was responsible for the farm buildings of Eaton Hall for the Duke of Westminster¹¹⁷. Douglas's farm buildings had an architectural style which utilised half-timbered elements in a form of the domestic revival style whilst predominantly adopting a U-shaped plan and were influential for the last 30 years of the 19th century in Cheshire¹¹⁸. Despite the change in use of several of the buildings, they are still set within a landscape of fields laid to pasture illustrating their historic function.
- 5.3.11 In the post-medieval period, the rural community of the study area would have mainly lived in detached houses and cottages, in small hamlets and villages (see Section 4.6). The earliest examples of these dwellings are rare, and the vast majority are 18th century or 19th century in date. The Grade II listed 61, 63 and 65 Church Street in Davenham (MA02_0142) is an important early example of a row of 17th century timber-framed and brick buildings. The setting of these cottages includes the Church of St Wilfred (MA02_0145) and post-medieval and modern residences on the tree-lined Church Road on the rural edge of Davenham.
- 5.3.12 The village of Lostock Green is typical of the 19th century development of small villages on the Cheshire Plain. The original plan is linear and follows Birches Lane with farms located within the village. At the southern end of the village is the Grade II listed Park Farmhouse (MA02_0174). Further along the village are two further red brick farmhouses: the non-designated Poplar Grove (MA02_0175) and Robin Hood Cottage (MA02_0178). The latter was constructed as a farmhouse; however, its connection to agricultural land has been eroded by later residential development on Birches Lane and it is no longer connected to a farm. Red brick, two storey, farm labourer's cottages were built between the farms such as Castlerock, 83 Birches Lane (MA02_0170) and Grove Cottage (MA02_0173). The non-designated 3 Birches Lane (MA02_0180) and 5-11 Birches Lane (MA02_0179) are heavily rendered but may retain evidence of earlier buildings and the people who lived in them.
- 5.3.13 Although the study area is predominantly rural it includes the core of the Middlewich Conservation Area (MA02_0066) and the fringes of the towns of Winsford and Northwich, including St Chad's (Winsford) Conservation Area (MA02_0278) and Northwich Conservation Area (MA02_0264). The wealth of these towns was largely built on the salt industry, the success of which fuelled their expansion in the post medieval period. A material factor in this success was the construction of new canals and navigations which passed through the towns allowing the easy import and export of goods. By the end of the post-medieval period

¹¹⁷ Hubbard, E. (1991), *The Work of John Douglas*, The Victorian Society.

¹¹⁸ Wade-Martins, S. (2002), *The English Model Farm, Building the Agricultural Ideal, 1700-1914*, Windgather Press.

Background Information and Data
Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

large industrial scale chemical works had sprung up on the edges of these towns, especially at Winsford and Northwich on the western extent of the study area.

- 5.3.14 In Middlewich, the medieval street pattern survives in the conservation area. However, all the buildings in the conservation area (with the exception of the Grade II* listed Church of St Michael and All Angels; MA02_0068, see above) are post-medieval in date. Commercial buildings on the High Street are generally 19th century, including Grade II listed 10 Hightown, a former butcher's shop (MA02_0069), and 28 Wheelock Street (MA02_0070). Domestic buildings include the remains of the Grade II listed, 17th century Newton Old Hall (MA02_0060), red brick 17th and 18th century houses (MA02_0053, MA02_0054, MA02_0055), and good examples of 19th century urban houses such as the Grade II listed 25 Queen Street (MA02_0063).
- 5.3.15 The medieval churches at Northwich (MA02_0258) and Middlewich (MA02_0068) were added to and reordered in subsequent phases across the post-medieval period. Both churches underwent significant alterations in the 19th century. The Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0068) in Middlewich was heavily restored by Joseph Clarke 1857-60 and the Church of St Helen (MA02_0258) underwent three substantial phases of alteration in the 19th century from 1841 onwards. In Davenham the entire original medieval Church of St Wilfred was replaced by a Victorian sandstone gothic church (MA02_0145) in the mid-19th century. The Grade II* listed building has an associated lych gate (MA02_0143) and churchyard which includes a Grade II listed table tomb (MA02_0144). These schemes of reordering and rebuilding reflect a wider national trend of church rebuilding from the mid- to late 19th century which was stimulated by the Gothic Revival and a recognition of the neglect that church buildings had suffered in the preceding centuries. Away from the established sites of medieval churches new churches were built in the 19th century. Both St John the Evangelist Church in Lostock Gralam (MA02_0184) and the Church of St John the Evangelist in Byley (MA02_0217) were built in red brick and on a smaller less grand scale than the medieval churches. The church in Byley was a Commissioner's Church, which means that it was built with the help of a grant from the government as a result of the passing of the Church Building Acts of 1818 and 1824. A small red brick chapel of ease served the suburb of Rudheath (MA02_0164). Non-conformist religious architecture is scarcer in this part of Cheshire, but an example is the small Methodist chapel in Clive Green (MA02_0031).
- 5.3.16 The development of the canals in the study area began with the Trent and Mersey Canal (see Section 4.6). The canal was built in 1775 with a contour design which limited the number of locks between Middlewich and Northwich. The canal is now a conservation area (MA02_0114) which includes the corridor of the canal, expanding where necessary to include built heritage assets with a direct historic association with the canal. The conservation area is split into two parts: the southern part is in Cheshire East and the northern in Cheshire West and Chester. Most of the original built heritage associated with the canal are Grade II listed. These include locks, bridges, a stables and sawpit house, a public house, and a house and canal office. These assets retain the historic industrial character of the canal as it passes

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

through Middlewich and the outskirts of Northwich. Outside of these towns little of the original infrastructure survives. The exception are bridges north of Middlewich that were rebuilt in the 19th century and several Grade II listed cast-iron mileposts. Outside of Middlewich the character of the canal retains its rural aspect where it would have served the surrounding farms from small rural wharfs such as the one located north-east of Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124).

- 5.3.17 The Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) was completed in 1835 (see Section 4.6). The associated canal infrastructure was predominantly built of red brick to the designs of Thomas Telford. Examples include Hughes Bridge (MA02_0035) which was constructed at the same time as the canal. The canal has several red brick accommodation bridges to connect farms to their fields on the opposite bank and to carry roads over the canal. These include bridge number 19, also known as Stock's Lane Bridge (MA02_0007) and bridge number 20 (MA02_0010). There are also two locks, two aqueducts and a red brick lock-keeper's cottage (MA02_0040) on the short Wardle Canal, as it joins the Trent and Mersey.
- 5.3.18 The large-scale improvement of Cheshire's roads occurred from the 18th century onwards (see Section 4.6). This included the introduction of cast-iron, black and white painted mileposts along the Bostock Road (MA02_0083, MA02_0100) dating to the early 19th century. Other improvements included the construction of the 19th century stone-built Shipbrook Bridge (MA02_0139). The establishment of safer and faster roads quickly resulted in the growth of businesses along these established routes to cater to roadside trade. These elements of transport infrastructure are of historic interest for their capacity to illustrate the early development of canal and turnpike roads in Cheshire.

5.4 Modern (1901 – present)

- 5.4.1 The beginning of the modern period saw little building in the study area, especially away from the urban centres, with the pattern of cottages and farmsteads largely unchanged from the preceding century. Large chemical works continued to spread out into rural areas on the edges of urban centres, particularly at Northwich and Winsford, and housing estates began to be built on the edges around Middlewich and Northwich.
- 5.4.2 With the outbreak of the First World War, many building projects were suspended as materials and labour were directed towards the war effort. Following peace in 1918, there was a nationwide feeling that the many lives lost during the war needed to be acknowledged and remembered, resulting in the largest single wave of public commemoration in history. Thousands of monuments were commissioned. Memorials were often created to commemorate those lost from local communities, such as the Wharton War Memorial (MA02_0077) located in the churchyard of the parish church. However, it was also common for memorials to be linked to specific companies which had lost members of their workforce during the fighting, in an act of corporate commemoration. Two such examples exist within the study area; the Brunner Mond War Memorials at Middlewich (MA02_0245) and Lostock

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Gralam (MA02_0247). Brunner Mond was a chemical company based in Northwich. During the war, their factories were used to produce trinitrotoluene (TNT), a vital chemical component of First World War munitions. The monuments are in locations next to the former works and social facilities of the company. As well as group monuments, individual internments of casualties were carried out by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, ensuring the headstones were of uniform appearance. The highest concentration of these burials within the study area are at Middlewich Cemetery (MA02_0332) where 21 First and Second World War casualties are interred. The war memorials and graves within the study area are of considerable historic interest for their link with world conflicts, while the lists of the names of the dead show the poignant cost of such involvement and continue to resonate with communities¹¹⁹.

- 5.4.3 In the interwar period the advancement of telecommunications technology left its mark even on rural areas, as evidence by the K6 Telephone Kiosk, Holmes Chapel Road, Lach Dennis (MA02_0243). The K6 telephone kiosk was a milestone of 20th century British design. It was the creation of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who designed it in 1935 for the General Post Office, on the occasion of King George V's Silver Jubilee. The design is now a global icon, instantly recognisable across the world.
- 5.4.4 By the Second World War, the landscape of Cheshire was being transformed as part of the Defence of Britain. RAF Cranage Airfield (MA02_0214) and its sprawling associated infrastructure, including concrete battle headquarters, pillboxes and an aircrew sleeping shelter (MA02_0218) left their mark on the rural landscape (see Section 4.7).
- 5.4.5 After the conclusion of the Second World War a period of intensive house building began in the 1960s and 70s. Extensive estates of detached and semi-detached house were built on low density plans on the outskirts of Middlewich, Northwich, Winsford, Lostock Green and Lostock Gralam (see Section 4.7) as these towns grew to accommodate new industries and commuters from the major cities. On the edges of Middlewich, Winsford and Northwich the built environment is dominated by large 20th century industrial units from the chemical industry, light manufacturing, distribution centres and retail parks.
- 5.4.6 Whilst some small villages and hamlets within the study area, such as Clive Green and Bostock, have seen little change since the 19th century, others have seen expansion. Davenham retains a historic core but housing estates have grown at the edges of the settlement. In other instances, the overall form of the village has been retained, but modern housing has infilled the space between the large rural cottages. This is the case at Lostock Green and Lach Dennis.
- 5.4.7 Another change which is evident within the study area is the widespread adaption and reuse of former agricultural buildings to residential use. This has largely resulted from the continued rationalisation of agricultural businesses and improved transport connectivity

¹¹⁹ Historic England (2017), *Commemorative Structures: Listing Selection Guide*, Historic England.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

which has encouraged a growth in commuters. The rural settings of these properties have made them appealing residences. Examples of former farm buildings that have undergone substantial conversion projects include the buildings at Dairy House Farm (now Stanthorne Park Mews, MA02_0028), where a former courtyard of red brick barns has been converted to multiple residential properties. Former country houses and their estates within the study area have also undergone similar conversion to residential accommodation complexes of multiple occupancy. For example, Lea Hall (MA02_0020) has been subdivided into three flats and its associated farm buildings similarly converted to residential accommodation. The Bostock Estate is an even more substantial example of this. Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) has been subdivided into multiple apartments and the range of stables and other farm buildings associated with the estate have also been converted for residential use. Moreover, the former walled garden has been developed to contain several new built residences, still contained by the original high brick walls (MA02_0106). The landscaped grounds of the former estate are now attractive communal grounds for the residences.

- 5.4.8 Outside of the major towns of Middlewich, Winsford and Northwich the study area continues to be predominantly agricultural in character. It retains many of the small hamlets and villages with medieval and post-medieval origins. Despite the conversion of many farm buildings to residential use brick-built farmhouses and cottages continue to characterise the experience of the built environment.

6 Research potential

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The North West England Regional Research Framework¹²⁰ provides an introduction to the key research themes in the region by period. A focus for further research-led investigation in the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area (MA02) could be provided by reflecting on the known and potential historic environment interest of the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme, and drawing on the general themes identified in the regional research framework.
- 6.1.2 Research themes for further investigation will be set out more fully in a Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy (HERDS), which will be produced post-deposition of the hybrid Bill. The HERDS covers all aspects of the historic environment, including built heritage, archaeology and the historic landscape.

6.2 General

- 6.2.1 Linear schemes present the opportunity to provide a representative sample of material from a variety of topographic and geographical zones. They also allow techniques of archaeological investigation to be tested over different areas and geological substrates. HS2 presents the opportunity to:
- seek to improve archaeological evaluation techniques, particularly using targeted evaluation, metal-detecting or surface artefact collection as appropriate based on a wider landscape assessment, including historic landscape characterisation and remotes sensing;
 - undertake scientific techniques to provide an improved chronology of archaeological remains with a focus on the prehistoric period and the early medieval period where the understanding of settlement in Cheshire is poor;
 - investigate the archaeological, geoarchaeological, and palaeoenvironmental research potential of peat deposits, alluvium and river terrace deposits and associated with the River Dane, Wade Brook, Peover Eye, Smoker Brook, and area around Holford Moss;
 - utilise surviving organic remains, including pollen, plant, and insects, to help understand the past environment and landscape in mid-Cheshire over a long chronological period;

¹²⁰ Research Frameworks (2021), *The North West England Regional Research Framework*. Available online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- palaeoenvironmental analysis of deposits will help build on the sequence of environmental data in existence for Cheshire described in '*Development-led palaeoenvironmental work in Cheshire: a review*'¹²¹;
- understand and identify changes in the landscape that relate to climate change; and
- combine historic landscape characterisation, documentary, and topographical studies of landscape to understand how settlement developed from the end of the Roman period to the modern period.

6.3 Prehistoric

6.3.1 The prehistoric period includes remains from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age. All periods are poorly represented and understood in the Wimboldsley to Lostock Green area. HS2 represents the opportunity to investigate:

- is there palaeoenvironmental evidence, including pollen analysis for changing climate conditions and woodland cover, including alder spread, elm decline that may indicate the increase in agriculture?
- do plant macrofossils that might survive in the wetland material hold evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age farming crops?
- does the pattern of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age agriculture reflect land use in the river valleys, heaths and mosses that were visible before medieval and post-medieval enclosure?
- is evidence of earlier prehistoric settlement along the River Dane valley such as Mesolithic and Neolithic assemblages associated with river terraces, present?
- to what extent do peatlands around Holford Moss survive beneath the later post-medieval landscape and can this be better understood as a resource for prehistoric people?
- can the investigation of bronze artefacts reveal the locations of Bronze Age votive deposition sites particularly in wetlands and rivers through the investigation of bronze artefacts?
- is there evidence for funerary monuments away from the uplands and the sandstone ridge on the High Legh to Knutsford Ridge (see BID HE-001-0MA03) and whether they are located adjacent to river valleys?
- what evidence of Iron Age and Roman salt trade may be further understood through examination of pottery from all excavations for pottery that is associated with salt production and distribution?

¹²¹ Huntley, J. (2020), VII: *Development-Led Palaeoenvironmental Work in Cheshire: A Review*, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society* 90, P123-160.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- can more be understood of the evidence of Iron Age salt production sites particularly along the Dane Valley north-west of Middlewich?
- what evidence is present of Iron Age settlement sites on the lowland plains of Cheshire and if they can be associated with late prehistoric tribal groups such as the Cornovii?; and
- what evidence is present if any of the transition from the Iron Age to the Roman period?

6.4 Roman

6.4.1 Roman settlement in mid-Cheshire is part of the hinterland of the Roman fortress of Deva Victrix at Chester and includes settlement at Northwich and Middlewich connected via a network of Roman roads. There is a lesser understanding of the rural hinterland within the Wimboldsley to Lostock Green area. HS2 offers the opportunity to investigate:

- how the Roman road systems develop and if there is evidence for road-side settlement?;
- was industrial production of salt and metalwork located outside the Roman settlements at Middlewich and Northwich, for example in the Dane Valley?;
- does examination of the chronology, economy and character of rural Iron-Age and Roman period sites and agriculture systems suggest continuity between the two periods?; and
- what was the impact of Roman occupation on the environment particularly past vegetation, water quality and land use?

6.5 Early medieval

6.5.1 Evidence for the early medieval period is confined to documentary sources and there is little archaeological evidence within the Wimboldsley to Lostock Green area. HS2 offers the opportunity to investigate:

- can examination of palaeoenvironmental evidence identify erosion sequences and climatic indicators associated with changes in settlement and land-use, such as the intake of fields and woodland clearance?;
- how investigation of early parish boundaries such as at Shipbrook and Rudheath can further our understanding of early medieval land use?;
- if agricultural field systems originate in the early medieval period, how many were in existence prior to the Norman conquest?; and
- if Roman sites were occupied into the medieval period or later sites had an early medieval origin to understand early medieval rural settlement through better scientific dating of excavated sites?

6.6 Medieval

- 6.6.1 Medieval settlement consisted of farmsteads and hamlets associated with agriculture land use in the Wimboldsley to Lostock Green area. HS2 offers the opportunity to investigate:
- how can investigation of archaeological features further our knowledge of the development and use of managed woodlands?;
 - what palaeoenvironmental remains are present that indicate agriculture, linked to documentary research to establish changes in land use and population growth that led to encroachment on common land through the process of assarting¹²² and piecemeal enclosure?;
 - how did the pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and villages evolve within individual manors and what evidence is there that small rural hamlets such as Stanthorne and Whatcroft were shrunken medieval villages or in fact never developed into villages?;
 - What evidence is present of the medieval field pattern and how does it reflect the pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and villages of the Wimboldsley Plain? In particular, is there evidence of the medieval field pattern north-west of Occlestone Green?;
 - what trackways previously existed that may reflect the lost pattern of the landscape?;
 - how did individual manors access the resources of their environs, including agricultural fields, woodland, and turbary rights¹²³ associated with mosslands?;
 - how the medieval land-use pattern of townships such as Lostock Green and Lach Dennis that may be associated with town fields is visible in Historic Landscape Characterisation data?;
 - is evidence for remnants of medieval timber buildings incorporated into later buildings?; and
 - what, if any, evidence is present for the continuation of the salt industry in the medieval period within the study area?

6.7 Post-medieval

- 6.7.1 During the post-medieval period the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area remained largely rural with industry confined to the larger towns of Middlewich, Winsford and Northwich. HS2 offers the opportunity to investigate:
- how have ecological changes, linked to agricultural improvement, impacted upon the wider landscape? This could be evaluated across the route of the Proposed Scheme, as

¹²² Assarting is a medieval term for the enclosure (both legal and illegal) of woodland, heathland and mosslands for agriculture.

¹²³ Turbary rights is a medieval term for the right to cut peat for fuel.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

landscape transects and linked to the documentary and topographical study of landscape and settlement;

- to what extent does pre-18th century enclosure survive and how does this relate to farmsteads and settlements in the area such as Stanthorne, Whatcroft, and Lostock Green?;
- how are changes in land patterns and building types linked to agricultural improvement in the 18th century and the shift from mixed arable to dairy farming due to an increased demand for a variety of food?;
- what evidence is held by abandoned farmsteads to understand their development and the people who lived in them through the material culture of individual households?;
- how has the transition from timber to brick differed according to building types across Cheshire in the 17th and 18th centuries?;
- how well recorded and understood are the distributions of agricultural building forms and types? Farm buildings should be examined and then compared to the regional expected distribution of building types. This should be done in synthesis with the surrounding farm landscapes to place the buildings in context?;
- what change and development of the agrarian landscape occurred in response to industrialisation and enclosure is sufficiently well understood from the documentary record? By examining the impact of urban expansion on agriculture, on buildings and farm landscape, did rising demand for food prompt a shift to dairy/ cattle raising from mixed arable and is this visible in changing land patterns and building types in this area of Cheshire?;
- what evidence is present for the development of the industrialised farm from the 19th century and the impact of technological change, including the use of power and mechanisation, on farm layout and building types?;
- how can our understanding of the rural poor be enhanced through the study of rural farm workers cottages?;
- how did the relationship of country houses such as Lea Hall, Bostock Hall and Whatcroft Hall to their estates and local villages function?;
- how did formal leisure landscapes, including parks at Bostock Hall and Whatcroft Hall evolve?;
- how far can continual evidence of salt making be traced back, was the landscape used consistently over time?; and
- how has subsidence, for example from brine pumping, affected the survival of archaeological remains?

6.8 Modern

6.8.1 The infrastructure associate with the First and Second World War shaped the character of the Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam area. HS2 offers the opportunity to investigate:

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- the importance of the chemical industry around Northwich during the First World War as evidenced by archaeological remains?;
- what was the role of the RAF Cranage Airfield in the response to the Second World War?;
- how did Cranage Airfield evolve and the extent of its character that can be recognised through historic landscape characterisation, historic research and landscape survey?; and
- how Cranage Airfield influenced the surrounding communities, including their defence structures such as defence lines, tank traps, air raid shelters and decoy bombing sites?

7 List of acronyms

7.1.1 The below table (table 1) provides a list of acronyms used within this document.

Table 1: List of acronyms

| Acronym | Meaning |
|---------|--|
| ADS | Archaeological Data Service |
| BID | Background Information and Data |
| CA | Community Area |
| ES | Environmental Statement |
| EUS | Extensive Urban Survey |
| HER | Historic Environment Record |
| HERDS | Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy |
| HLC | Historic Landscape Characterisation |
| HLCA | Historic Landscape Character Area |
| LiDAR | Light Detection and Ranging |
| NHLE | National Heritage List for England |
| NHLC | National Historic Landscape Character/Characterisation |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| NRHE | National Record of the Historic Environment |
| PRoW | Public Right of Way |
| RAF | Royal Air Force |
| SMR | Scope and Methodology Report |
| UAD | Urban Archaeological Database |
| ZTV | Zone of Theoretical Visibility |

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Historic environment
BID HE-001-0MA02
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BID HE-001-0MA02
MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
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BID HE-001-0MA02
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Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Appendix A: Historic environment detailed gazetteer

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0001

Asset name: Roman Road - Nantwich to Middlewich (Margary No.700)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): MA01 Hough to Walley's Green

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368900 361450

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Defence
Military road

Period(s): Roman

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 1189/1/0
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| MA02_0008 | Roman roadside site, Wimboldsley |
|-----------|----------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0154 | King Street Roman Road (Margary route 70a) |
|-----------|--|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0313 | Roman Road - Middlewich to Manchester - North of Holmes Chapel Road |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The course of the Roman road from Nantwich to Middlewich (numbered after Ivan Margary No.700). The course has been traced by aerial photography from Wrenbury to Swanley Hall, Rookery Hall, to pass 1.5 miles to the west of Nantwich. Margary first traced the road at Wood Farm, Worleston to the west of Crewe, then it occurs as a slight ridge across the fields from Leighton Hall to Bradfield Green. It is marked by hedgerows near Park Hall and at Occlestone Green. From Occlestone Green, the modern road follows it for a few yards, then the agger can be seen in a hedge. An agger is a Roman road embankment. Sutton Lane continues the line up to Middlewich, where it would cross the northern road Margary No. 70a (King Street). Beyond this from Byley to Bradshaw House in Lower Peover, the direction of the road follows the same alignment as that before Middlewich, for a further 3 miles. [1] [2]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset's value is derived from its archaeological interest providing an example of the construction of Roman roads in Britain. It demonstrates the transport routes through Cheshire that supported the important legionary fortress of Deva at Chester and inter-connected sites of industrial production at Nantwich, Middlewich and Northwich. Since its construction, it has been repeatedly reused as a transport route.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Therefore, only parts of the route are well-preserved and the extent and survival of the remains is not fully understood.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Margary, I.D. (1957), Roman Roads in Britain.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH5475>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0003

Asset name: Verdin Arms Public House

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368415 362095

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Commercial
Coaching inn

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a public house which dates to at least 1875 [1] when it is referred to as the Plough Inn. The plan of the building is smaller at this time and may suggest that the building was altered and extended in the late 19th century. It is built in red brick, with applied timber-frame on the first floor. It consists of two ranges: one range lines the road at the south with a parallel range to the rear and north. These buildings appear to have been part of an early 20th century expansion of the public house in keeping with the local vernacular style. The name Verdin Arms suggests that this was done as part of the estate associated with Bostock Hall and owned by the Verdin family. It is first depicted on the 1938 Ordnance Survey map [3] as the Verdin Arms. The red brick two storey building to the rear is added by 1899 and is depicted on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map [2] and may be a brew house. It has now been converted to a residential property. The public house was built to serve passing road side travellers and the agricultural community of the surrounding countryside. It would have had a tertiary function over time of serving railway workers who lived in the adjacent railway cottages.

Setting description:

The setting of the Verdin Arms is adjacent to the busy A530 Nantwich Road (Middlewich Road south of the Verdin Arms) before it crosses the West Coast Main Line (WCML) on a concrete overbridge. It is subject to the constant noise and visual intrusions from the road and intermittent noise and visual intrusion from the WCML. However, its relationship to the road aids in understanding its development as a roadside pub. The adjacent WCML and road existed at the time of The Verdin Arms' construction in the 19th century and was part of its historic context as a roadside public house at the railway crossing. The public house has an enclosed setting due to mature trees to the west and south and the embankment of the WCML to the east. This enclosed space is within large fields separated by hedgerows which comprise the flat landscape of the Wimboldsley Plain. The setting of the asset enables an understanding of the relationship between the pub

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

which served the rural community and the surrounding farmland. In addition this setting retains the transport infrastructure which, although a source of noise and visual intrusion, influenced the construction of a public house at this location. Therefore the setting of the asset positively contributes to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic interest as an example of a public house built to serve the passing trade on the A530 Middlewich Road and the surrounding agricultural community. It has value due to its architectural interest which uses half-timbered detailing on the first floor and ceramic roof tiles in a style that is typical of the local mid Cheshire rural housing stock. In particular these buildings are associated with the Verdin family and seen on a number of their estate buildings.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1899, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.
- 3 Ordnance Survey, 1938, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0004

Asset name: 1-4 Railway Cottages

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368700 362200

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Row

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A row of two-storey cottages. They are red brick built on the ground floor and applied timber-frame style on the first floor, in keeping with the local vernacular. The pitched roof is tiled with decorative finials and ridge tiles. A group of buildings known as 'Railway Cottages' are shown on 1899 Ordnance Survey map situated on the eastern side of the Grand Junction Railway [1]. They may have been built by the railway company but may also be using the name 'Railway Cottages' due to the proximity of the railway.

Setting description:

The setting of the Railway Cottages is in mature gardens south of the busy A530 Nantwich Road as it crosses the WCML on a concrete overbridge. The surrounding land is farmland divided by wire and post fences and hedgerows. To the immediate west is the WCML which formed part of the historic context of the cottages, which were probably occupied by railway workers. Despite the asset being screened from the road and railway visually, both transport routes dominate the audible experience although the train noise is intermittent. They have a historical association with the WCML and may have been accommodation for railway workers, therefore the presence of the railway within their setting makes a positive contribution to their heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest. They are a good architectural example of late 19th century domestic rural housing. They adopt the local vernacular style of brick building with applied timber framed decoration.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Ordnance Survey, 1899, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0005

Asset name: Wimboldsley Hall and Barns

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368320 362360

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 6268
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Wimboldsley Hall is a farmhouse dating to 1891. It is of red brick construction, in the revived timber frame tradition, with timber and render painted black and white to first floor. It has six bays with the entrance set in a porch to one side. The pitched roof is tiled with four chimney stacks. A series of barns, which appear to be contemporary with the farmhouse, are located to the north and rear in three ranges set around a central courtyard. These are two stories high and follow the stylistic form of the main building. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of Wimboldsley Hall and Barns is the working farmyard of 19th and 20th century barns to the north of the hall. The surrounding landscape is the flat farmland of the Wimboldsley Plain. The surrounding fields have few hedgerows to the south and east, and the farm has little mature tree coverage around it but is partially enclosed to the north by 20th century barns, and to the east by the embankment of the WCML. The A530 Nantwich Road and the WCML formed part of the historic context of the farm when it was built. Within this setting is intermittent noise from both transport routes. The setting of the asset contributes positively to its value despite the later infrastructure, due to the surrounding farmland and working farm buildings which are in keeping with the historic context of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic interest as 19th century farm buildings relating to a period where large dairy farms were managed as part of estates in mid Cheshire. It also has architectural interest as an example of the mid Cheshire rural housing stock utilising half timbered framework on the first floor and ceramic roof tiles.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshireservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=DCH10770>
- 2 Vale Royal Borough Council (2021) Wimboldsley Hall and Barns

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0007

Asset name: Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 19 at 680 624

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368065 362498

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1240172
HER: DCH2436
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bridge No 19 at NGR 6800 6240, is also known as Stock's Lane Bridge. It is an accommodation bridge in a design typical of Thomas Telford for the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch. The bridge dates to the canal's construction in 1827-1833. It is built in washed brick with a stone band and copings. The towpath retaining wall has a stone coping. [1] The bridge appears to have been designed to provide accommodation to farmland west of the canal from Wimboldsley Hall Farm.

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is in relation to the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal (MA02_0037). It has important views north and south along the canal corridor, which is in a shallow cutting here. From the top of the bridge there are also clear views to WCML across the surrounding arable countryside. The associated farm buildings of Wimboldsley Hall cannot be seen due to mature hedgerow trees, access to the farmland surrounding these is provided by the bridge. The setting relative to the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal positively contributes to this value, as it retains its historic context providing access to farmland towards Wimboldsley Hall over the canal.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1240172>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0008

Asset name: Roman roadside site, Wimboldsley

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 369270 362515

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Settlement

Period(s): Roman

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 7117
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|--|
| MA02_0001 | Roman Road - Nantwich to Middlewich (Margary No.700) |
|-----------|--|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Three Roman brooches recovered adjacent to the Roman Road -Nantwich to Middlewich (Margary No. 700). The brooches are cast copper alloy and enamel, two are trumpet brooch derivatives and the third is a disc brooch [1]. Due to the relationship to the road, the clustering of these finds may suggest the location of a rural farmstead or settlement that has not been otherwise identified.

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its archaeological interest as a site with potential for Roman period archaeological remains of a roadside settlement. This potential is derived from its location adjacent to the Roman road and evidence for three brooches recovered by metal detecting.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, 7117, 3 Roman Brooches from Wimboldsley.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0009

Asset name: Unnamed Site in Wimboldsley Parish (South)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 367900 362845

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Monument
Earthwork

Period(s): Prehistoric,
Roman,
Early medieval, and
Medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 816
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

"A large irregular earthwork enclosure with a strong bank and ditch, and a smaller rectangular enclosure are shown on aerial photographs dating from the late 1940s. The boundary for the larger enclosure follows the 45m contour, except where it is weakest on the south eastern side which crosses the top of the slight promontory. It may be an Iron Age enclosure or an early medieval or medieval assart (a piece of land cleared of trees for cultivation). No earthworks seem to survive to the east of the late nineteenth century field boundary which almost bisects the site north-south. However, slight earthworks may survive to the west." [1]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its archaeological interest as a site of an undated enclosure. Sites such as these have the potential to be Iron Age to medieval in date and inform on the lives of past people and communities.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument List, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshireservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8099>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0010

Asset name: Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 20 at SJ 679 630

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 367995 363083

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1261169
HER: DCH2461
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|---|
| MA02_0013 | Twelve Acres Farmhouse (now Wimboldsley Grange) |
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|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bridge No. 20 at SJ 6790 6300 is an accommodation bridge in a design typical of Thomas Telford for the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. The bridge dates to the canal's construction in 1827-1833 with some 20th century repairs. It has a single basket arch, solid parapet and piers [1]. The bridge provides a route between fields west of the canal and Wimboldsley Grange to the south east.

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is associated with the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal (MA02_0037). It has important views north and south along the canal corridor including to Bridge No. 21. The canal is in slight cutting here, but on an embankment to the south. The topography to the north-east encloses the bridge and canal in this location from visual impacts to the east, this is not the case in the south-west. The canal is quiet with few canal boats on this stretch, bird and insect sounds are the only noise except for the farm machinery from Wimboldsley Grange. This is interrupted periodically due to the existing WCML to the south-east, which is clearly audible where the canal is exposed. The setting relative to the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal positively contributes to this value, as it retains its historic context providing access between Wimboldsley Grange and its historically associated farmland.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1261169>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0011

Asset name: Trackway to Wimboldsley Grange

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368710 363240

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Road transport site

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 7642
NMR n/a

Associated assets

Asset UID Asset name

MA02_0012 Barn c. 15 Yards to west of Twelve Acres Farmhouse

MA02_0013 Twelve Acres Farmhouse (now Wimboldsley Grange)

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A trackway which is shown on historic maps (1875 Ordnance Survey map [1]). These maps show that the lane from Nantwich Road to Wimboldsley Grange (formerly Twelve Acres) originally curved to the south joining Nantwich Road near Hopley House. Settlement at Wimboldsley Grange is known to date to at least the 17th century but may be earlier and beyond Hopley House to the east is the settlement of Occlestone Green which is medieval in date forming part of the manor of Occlestone. The lane ultimately continued west to a medieval crossing point of the River Weaver. The line of the lane survives as an archaeological feature which can be seen as a cropmark. [2]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its archaeological interest as an example of a medieval trackway connecting the dispersed communities on Wimboldsley plain. The trackway appears to lead from Wimboldsley Grange to Occlestone Green, two settlements that are likely to be medieval in date.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument List, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH23584>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0012

Asset name: Barn c. 15 Yards to west of Twelve Acres Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368017 363286

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Timber framed barn

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160751
HER: 820/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|--------------------------------|
| MA02_0011 | Trackway to Wimboldsley Grange |
|-----------|--------------------------------|

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|-----------|---|
| MA02_0013 | Twelve Acres Farmhouse (now Wimboldsley Grange) |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

An early 17th century barn, since altered and now used as livestock pens and a storage building. It is timber-framed with rendered infill and English garden wall bond brick with a slate roof. The building was originally a single storey, but is now two storeys high. The north front is built in 19th century brick and has five bays, which are divided by pilaster buttresses with clasping buttresses to the corners. The central bay on this face has 20th century double doors at the ground floor, with a cement lintel and three-light cambered-headed casement window above. The bays to either side of this have cambered-headed stable doors with 20th century cement-lintelled windows either side. There are cambered-headed loft doors above at the centre of each bay, with diamond pattern breathers either side. To the right of the north face is a cambered-headed door with three diamond pattern breathers to first floor and to the left is a 20th century sliding door with cement lintel. The left-hand reveal has clasping buttresses, a stable door to the left and a 20th century metal-framed window to the right. Timber framing can be seen above the centre of this return, with two central loft doors stacked vertically.

There is a lean-to at the left with a cambered-headed door on its right side and a 20th century window. The rear of the barn has a central gabled projection, with a cambered-headed door at the right and a central loft door above. Howled posts can be seen at the corners, and small timber framing with angle braces at the sides. Either side of this are lean-tos, each with two stable doors.

The interior of the barn has four sets of base crucks which rise to die with the principals and have tie, collar and yokes with small framed infill. The rear wall has eight by three cells of small framing either side of the gabled projection. There are middle posts to each of the lower two ranges of cells and angle braces to the top row of cells. The outshut roofs have ties with two angle braces each and there is one jowled post at the left. [1]

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Setting description:

The setting of the barn is the working farmyard filled with loud and audible noises of farm machinery. There is a strong smell of cattle. It has a close association with the adjacent Twelve Acres (now known as Wimboldsley Grange) (MA02_0013). It is surrounded by 19th century barns, on the north and west side, the farmyard and later 20th century barns. Views out of the farm complex are restricted by 20th century farm buildings but the farmland of mixed-use fields and hedgerows is somewhat visible beyond. The existing WCML on embankment forms a north to south linear corridor to the east and the intermittent noise of trains on the WCML is audible faintly in the background. The barn retains its historic context within the working farmyard, this setting positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural and archaeological interest as an example of early post-medieval timber framed shippon or cow barn. Due to changes in agricultural practice these buildings have been lost and surviving examples of this quality are rare reflecting its national importance.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160751>.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7948>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0013

Asset name: Twelve Acres Farmhouse (now Wimboldsley Grange)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368035 363290

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH10771
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|--|
| MA02_0010 | Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 20 at SJ 679 630 |
|-----------|--|

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|-----------|--------------------------------|
| MA02_0011 | Trackway to Wimboldsley Grange |
|-----------|--------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0012 | Barn c. 15 Yards to west of Twelve Acres Farmhouse |
|-----------|--|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A locally listed farmhouse, known currently as Wimboldsley Grange. Twelve Acres refers to its historic name. It is a two-storey farmhouse, formed from a former 17th century house with extensive 19th century alterations. The immediately visible 19th century alterations and fenestration is of a red brick-built farmhouse of four bays and two ranges with a grey slate roof with decorated finals. The style of the refurbishment dates to mid 19th century. [1] It is depicted on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map with the same footprint. [2] The farmhouse has been altered in the red brick and applied timber-frame style typical of the estate buildings associated with the Verdin Estate. The interior of the building has not been surveyed and the exterior of the building has only been surveyed as part of the setting of the associated barn.

Setting description:

The setting of Twelve Acres is associated with the Grade II* listed 17th century barn (MA02_0012), 19th century brick barns and large 20th century barns. The atmosphere of the farmyard includes loud farm machinery. The farmhouse and farmyard are surrounded by large agricultural fields with intermittent hedgerows. The existing WCML, which runs on a low embankment, forms a north to south linear corridor to the east, and the noise of the railway is intermittently audible faintly in the background. To the west, the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal also runs north-south, these transport corridors sever the asset from some of its historic context. However the flat topography allows for extensive views, and access bridges continue to connect the farmhouse to these fields. The farmhouse retains its historic context with the active working farmyard and farmland, although this has been diminished by the removal of historic field

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

boundaries and introduction of larger field systems in the 20th century, therefore this setting positively contributes to the value of the asset. The setting contributes positively to the heritage value of the asset, as the farmhouse retains its historic context with the active working farmyard and farmland.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of rural farm building in mid Cheshire. It also has archaeological interest as it contains earlier elements of a 17th century building which have been subsequently rebuilt in the 19th century.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council Local List, Twelve Acres, off Northwich Road DCH10771
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0014

Asset name: Unnamed Site in Wimboldsley Parish (North)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 367540 363360

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Monument
Earthwork

Period(s): Prehistoric,
Roman,
Early medieval, and
Medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 818
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A sizable curving north-south aligned ditch c. 230m long and with a bank on the western side. Appears to be a quite deep ditch with a sizable bank. At the northern end the ditch appears to be shallower and the bank stops c. 25m before the end. Close examination of aerial photographs from the late 1940s seems to indicate that the feature is earlier than the surrounding narrow ridge and furrow. The bank had been levelled and the ditch infilled by the early 1970s. The feature is still visible as a cropmark. A broad date for, or function of, the feature has not been ascertained. [1]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its archaeological interest as a site of an undated enclosure. Sites such as these have the potential to be prehistoric to medieval in date and inform on the lives of past people and communities.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8417>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0015

Asset name: Estate Cottages (now School Cottages)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368890 363660

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Estate cottage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH10772
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|----------|
| MA02_0020 | Lea Hall |
|-----------|----------|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The Estate Cottages are now known as School Cottages. The buildings are locally listed and were built c.1890. They form a series of six brick cottages that are grouped as three identical semi-detached buildings [1, 2].

They have a red brick lower storey with a timber framed upper storey, and red tiled roofs. There is neat symmetry to the three buildings.

The buildings are associated with the Verdin Family estate and the Lea Hall (MA02_0020) estate. [1] As part of a large estate they would have housed farm workers.

Setting description:

The setting of the Estate Cottages is in the small hamlet around a junction on the A530 Nantwich Road. Buildings of a similar era, including the school and a cast iron black and white sign post surround the junction. There is heavy traffic noise from the adjacent A530 Nantwich Road throughout the day.

The cottages are surrounded by small gardens and hedgerows. Although the cottages retain an association with their historic context of the flat farmland of the Wimboldsley Plain, this has been diminished by the loss of the smaller historic field boundaries and replacement with larger field systems in the 20th century.

Therefore, they maintain a relationship with the farmland but the nature of this is altered from the historic context. This allows the cottages to be understood as farmworkers residences, but reduces the ability to understand the nature of the agriculture in greater detail.

Lea Hall (MA02_0020) still stands, although its surroundings are altered. It's associated farmyard may be seen across the expanse of rural fields from the cottages. Therefore the cottages may still be understood in the context of the estate relating to the large farmhouse.

Its setting in relation to the farmland of Wimboldsley Plain and surviving elements of the Lea Hall Estate contributes positively to its value.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the red brick and timber framed rural workers cottages associated with estate of Lea Hall.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council Local List, Estate Cottages, Nantwich Road DCH10772
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1899, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0016

Asset name: Enclosure in Wimboldsley Parish

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368520 363690

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Monument
Earthwork

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 7641
NMR n/a
Remote sens. ID: MA02_RS010

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

"A sub-square enclosure visible as a soil mark on aerial photographs. Probably a medieval enclosure or field enclosure from an earlier field system." [1] To the east is a further small enclosure located during remote sensing analysis.

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its heritage value from its archaeological interest as an example of a former agricultural or settlement enclosure that is likely to be medieval in origin.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH23583>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0017

Asset name: Pettywood Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370270 363780

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1139214
HER: 757/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Pettywood Farmhouse was originally two farm cottages, it dates to the 17th century with 19th century additions. The cottages are built in plum coloured English garden wall bond brick with a plain tile roof. The original cottages were built with two bays originally symmetrically disposed, with two cambered headed doorways to the centre of the ground floor. The right doorway is now blocked and the left has a gabled porch in front. There is a band between the floors, three bricks in depth. There are two lateral first floor windows similar to those on the ground floor. In the attics are two lateral raking dormer windows. To the left is a projecting 19th century gabled wing with a three-light cambered headed ground floor casement window, a two-light first floor casement window and a single pane window to the attic. The cottages were built as estate buildings for Stanthorne Lodge. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of Pettywood Farmhouse is its farmyard, situated on a prominent position overlooking the River Wheelock. It retains much of its historic context within farmland on the eastern edge of Wimboldsley Plain, surrounded by large fields for pasture divided by hedgerows and connected by rural lanes and tracks. This setting makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and architectural interest as an example of the 17th century farmhouses that arose as land was enclosed in Cheshire for increased dairy farming production.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139214>.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7906>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0018

Asset name: Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 22 at SJ 676 640

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 367673 364085

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1240173
HER: 5056
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0020 | Lea Hall |
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bridge No. 22 at SJ 6760 6400, is also referred to as Lea Hall Bridge. It is an accommodation bridge in a design typical of Thomas Telford for the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. The bridge dates to the canal's construction in 1827-1833. It has a single basket arch, solid parapet and piers. There is a brick towpath surface. [1] The bridge allows access to farmland in the River Weaver valley west of the canal from Lea Hall via a track.

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is on the quiet, rural section of the Shropshire Union, Middlewich Branch Canal (MA02_0037) which runs on a low embankment. It is secluded, being surrounded by farmland and woodland. The noise of birds and insects is only occasionally interrupted by the passing trains from the line of the existing WCML to the east. It retains its historic context associated with the canal, providing access to farmland towards Lea Hall. It retains its historic context in relation to the canal and farmland towards Lea Hall, this makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1240173>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0019

Asset name: Gatepiers at Lea Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368052 364133

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Monument
Gateway

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1329817
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| MA02_0020 | Lea Hall |
|-----------|----------|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A pair of square, ashlar gate piers in the gardens of Lea Hall that date to the late 17th or early 18th century. They have moulded bases to piers which have chamfered rusticated bodies and moulded capitals supporting concave capping pieces but lacking their finials [1]. The gate piers are a later addition to Lea Hall and now stand in the grounds of the hall independent of their original function as the entrance has been moved.

Setting description:

The setting of the gate piers is in relation to Lea Hall, within what remains of its former gardens. The original entrance, which the gate piers would have framed, is lost and replaced with a new route between the buildings. Therefore the gate piers sit within a grassed area. The former gardens now also contain additional residences; these have been built to reflect the proportions of the original hall and modern farm buildings. The addition of residences and loss of the original entrance has resulted in a loss of some historic context, namely elements of the gardens and farm to the south-east, however the surrounding farmland and farm buildings to the south-west is retained. Surrounding this complex of buildings is the agricultural landscape which is part of their historic context. The farm buildings are mostly large, modern barns, however that nearest the farmhouse may be 19th century. Beyond these buildings is the WCML. Noise from the WCML intermittently interrupts the quiet atmosphere of the setting. Despite this, they retain their historic connection with Lea Hall and the context of farmland in their setting, which contributes positively to the heritage value of the gatepiers.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of 17th century gateposts. It also has

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

group value with the Grade II* listed Lea Hall.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1329817>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0020

Asset name: Lea Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368034 364146

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Great house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160742
HER: DCH2733
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0015 | Estate Cottages (now School Cottages) |
| MA02_0018 | Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 22 at SJ 676 640 |
| MA02_0019 | Gatepiers at Lea Hall |
| MA02_0026 | Leahead Cottages |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A small Country House, now subdivided into three flats, built in the late 17th or early 18th century. It is built in red, Flemish bond brick with ashlar dressings and a plain tiled roof. It has two storeys, with an attic and a basement. The entrance front has five symmetrically disposed bays, the central slightly projecting, a projecting plinth with a moulded top and chamfered quoins to the corners. Between floors is a cyma-moulded string course and at the eaves is a 19th century terra-cotta cornice with egg and dart moulding. These details continue around the building. The building appears to have been re-roofed in the 19th century, it was likely the terra-cotta cornice was added at around the same period. The tiles, the lateral chimney stacks and the decorative ironwork around the central flat platform may originally have supported a lantern. The central, projecting bay has a painted ashlar door surround with arched panels and scrolls to the jambs and a swan's neck pediment above, in the centre is a crest with the initials 'J V' to either side. The ground and first floor windows have exposed sash boxes and are all of five by seven panes those to the ground floor being slightly taller and all have flat arched heads. There is a central 19th century three-light dormer window with a hipped roof.

Right hand façade also has quoins to the corners. There are two cambered-headed basement windows to the right and left. On the ground floor is a door to the right of the centre. To the right of this is a basket-arched window reveal containing a sash window similar to those on the entrance front. To the left of the door are three blocked basket-arched window reveals. To the first floor are four more basket-arched reveals, the furthest right containing a sash window of five by seven panes and the window left of this containing another sash of four by three panes. The left hand façade is similar, the windows to its far right is now blocked and the others now contain windows similar to those on the entrance front.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

To the rear are two 18th or 19th century one storey extensions with hipped roofs and cambered-headed windows, there is a 19th century outshut between the two. On the first floor are five blocked basket arched window reveals, that at the centre being the widest and lighting the staircase, now with a smaller 19th century basket arched cross window of stained glass. A 19th century chimney stack rises from the centre of the rear wall, either side of which are 19th century hipped dormer windows.

The interior has Bolection moulded panelling in two ground floor rooms and one first floor room. The principal staircase is of two flights with an open string and moulded tread-ends, the newels are formed of groups of eight turned balusters. There is dado panelling with a raised and fielded outline.

The house was built for a member of the Verdin family. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of Lea Hall is within what remains of its former gardens, which now contains additional residences; these have been built to reflect the proportions of the original hall and modern farm buildings. It's historic gate piers (MA02_0019) are retained in relation to the building, however the former entrance is lost and replaced with a new route between the buildings, therefore the gate piers sit within a grassed area. The addition of residences and loss of the original entrance has resulted in a loss of some historic context, namely elements of the gardens and farm to the south-east, however the surrounding farmland and farm buildings to the south-west is retained. This farmland is part of the historic setting of the hall. The setting of Lea Hall and its associated structures within its countryside surroundings is in keeping with its historic context. The farm buildings are mostly large, modern barns, however that nearest the farmhouse may be early modern or late post-medieval. Beyond these buildings is the WCML. Noise from the WCML intermittently disrupts the rural atmosphere of the setting. Despite the presence of the WCML, the agricultural setting is in keeping with the historical context of the hall and positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural and historic interest as an example of high status, classically influenced country house.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160742>.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7846>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0021

Asset name: Railway Embankment east of Wimboldsley Wood

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 367910 364300

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Railway embankment

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 2521/1/35
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

An embankment east of Wimboldsley Wood, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway 1837 (now the WCML). The embankment was designed to allow the WCML to run level over low lying ground. The Grand Junction Railway was built between 1830 and 1850 and linked Liverpool and Manchester to Birmingham. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The embankment is set within agricultural fields of the Wimboldsley Plain. The setting of the embankment is intrinsically associated with the WCML and the continual running of trains along the line. It is also associated with the Trent and Mersey Canal Middlewich Branch to the west. This setting aids in understanding the function of the embankment and makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its archaeological interest as an example of railway infrastructure associated with the Grand Junction Railway.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Ordnance Survey, 1995 County Series First Edition, 1: 10,000.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8308>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0022

Asset name: Weaver Hall Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 366960 364328

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138423
HER: 822/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A mid-to-late 17th century farmhouse, with 19th century alterations and extensions. The farmhouse is built in red Flemish bond brick with a slate roof (previously stone slates). It is three storeys high and has an H-shaped plan. The entrance front has a projecting gabled wing to the left. This has banding, three bricks deep, between the floors. It has two-light windows on each floor with wedge-shaped lintels. These are all blocked except for those to left of the first and second floors, that at the first floor having been widened. There is a porthole window on the gable. To the right of the projecting gabled wing is a recessed portion. This is refaced in 19th century brick.

There is a 19th century porch at a re-entrant angle and two three-light cambered headed windows to the right of this. The first and second floors have a similar fenestration, with similar three-light windows to the right-hand side of all three floors. The rear of the farmhouse has a timber post showing to the right hand. The interior has a baffle entry with a chamfered bressummer to the ingle nook in the parlour. There are chamfered end-stopped ceiling beams in the ground floor rooms. It has roof trusses of queen posts with cambered ties and collars and arched wind braces [1, 3]. The farmhouse is referred to as Stokes Farm on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map. [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is the farmyard complex of farm buildings of a variety of dates from the 19th and 20th centuries. The farm is located on the valley floor of the River Weaver. In this location the land has been subject to subsidence, this has created a small body of water known as Top Flash that can be seen to the south-east of the farmhouse and is surrounded by the trees of Wimboldsley Wood to the east. The farmyard retains its historic context surrounded by fields for pasture lined by hedgerows and isolated trees. This setting makes a positive contribution to its value.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and architectural interest as an example of the 17th century farmhouses that arose as land was enclosed in Cheshire for increased dairy farming production.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138423>.
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.
- 3 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7950>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0023

Asset name: Sutton Hall Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370027 364417

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229623
HER: 109/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a farmhouse, probably late 17th century, which has been altered and extended in the 18th century and with a wing added to give double depth in the early 19th century. Each wing has a gable chimney and a ridge chimney. The rear wing was formerly thatched. The interior has surviving sawn beams, exposed joists, and a damaged dogleg stair of oak but the internal partitions upstairs have been removed. [1,2]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is within a working farm surrounded by a series of farm buildings including large 20th century barns. It lies one side of Sutton Lane, a track which leads from Middlewich roughly south-west to Occlestone Green Farm. The farm retains its historic context located at the top of the narrow valley side of the River Wheelock overlooking Sutton Mill to the south and surrounded by farmland and copses of woodland of the flat Wimboldsley Plain. This setting makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and archaeological interest as an example of the 17th century farmhouses that arose as land was enclosed in Cheshire for increased dairy farming production.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229623>.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshireshareservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH4978>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0024

Asset name: Railway Bridge over the Shropshire Union Canal

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 367800 364510

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Railway bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 2521/1/34
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A railway bridge over the Shropshire Union Canal, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway. The Grand Junction Railway was built between 1830 and 1850 and linked Liverpool and Manchester to Birmingham [1, 3]. The original bridge was possibly designed by Robert Stephenson. It has brick abutments with stone and brick copings. The steel deck on the north side is carried by bowstring plate girders. On the south side the deck has been extended in the 20th century and is concrete with a parapet rail. The towpath surface is of gravel with concrete coping. [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the railway bridge is on the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) in an area of farmland. The railway line is carried on embankment across the relatively flat Wimboldsley Plain and there are prominent views across the plain. The historic context of the bridge is associated with the railway line and the crossing of the canal, this is retained in its current setting. Its setting therefore positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of railway architecture associated with the Grand Junction Railway.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Ordnance Survey, 1995 County Series First Edition, 1: 10,000.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Canal and Rivers Trust (1989), Architectural Heritage Survey, Railway Bridge.
- 3 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at:
<http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8284>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0025

Asset name: Road at Wimboldsley Wood

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 367390 364530

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Packhorse road

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 1015/1
NMR n/a
Remote sens. ID: MA02_RS019

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A former road survives as a distinct earthwork on the valley side in Wimboldsley Wood. It is associated with the rural landscape of small hamlets that make up the dispersed settlement in this location. It connects Swanlow Green and Clive Green. It seems to relate to a complex of well-preserved ridge and furrow in the field to the north (centred SJ 673 646), which suggests that it is medieval in origin rather than Roman. The road largely follows the northern boundary of Wimboldsley Wood from its northerly point adjacent to plot 156 Long Field to a bridge or ford across the Weaver at SJ 6721 6437. The crossing would have been lost to Winsford Top Flash which developed after 1845. It is probable that this is the road from Swanlow Lane to Clive Green depicted on Burdett's map of 1777 [1]. This asset was also detected during remote sensing [2].

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its archaeological interest as an example of a medieval trackway connecting the dispersed communities on Wimboldsley Plain. Value is derived from its potential to inform on the connection between the medieval settlements of Swanlow Green and Clive Green. It may also inform on the wider nature of settlement and transport within the Wimboldsley plain during the medieval period.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshireservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7981>
- 2 BID HE-005-0MA02

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0026

Asset name: Leahead Cottages

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368800 364715

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Estate cottage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 6814
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| MA02_0020 | Lea Hall |
|-----------|----------|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Leahead Cottages consists of two locally listed brick cottages that date to 1891. The red brick cottages have black and white applied timber-frame detailing on the first floor. They appear to be part of a series of cottages associated with the estate owned by the Verdin family. Leahead cottages are two of several similar style houses, including Estate Cottages (now known as School Cottages), south on the A530 Nantwich Road. A 20th century extension has been built to the rear.

Setting description:

The setting of the cottages is on the edge of the arable land east of Lea Hall (MA02_0020), adjacent to the property's driveway, and south of Clive Green Lane. The cottages face towards the east on to the busy A530 Nantwich Road. High hedges surround the building but at street level the road is a noisy constant presence. To the rear are views across the large fields with intermittent hedgerows which form the agricultural landscape. Historic context as a series of rural workers cottages for the estate of Lea Hall is partially retained by its association with the adjacent farmland. The setting of the asset contributes positively to its value due to the retained association with farmland, and with Lea Hall (MA02_0020) through this farmland.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the red brick and timber framed rural workers cottages associated with the estate of the Verdin family.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Ordnance Survey, 1899, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.
- 2 Vale Royal Borough Council. (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0027

Asset name: Dairy House Farmhouse, Winsford

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-02-302b
National Grid Reference: 366161 364757

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160503
HER: 821/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The farmhouse is now known as Weaver Dairy Farmhouse. It dates to the late 17th century with 18th century additions and alterations. It is timber framed with whitewashed brick infill and random bond brick with a plain tile and slate roof. The south eastern front is a timber framed single storey wing. To left of this is 18th century projecting wing addition of two storeys [1].

"Wood was in plentiful supply as a building material in Britain until the 17th century. It was therefore the most practical material for house building. Timber framed buildings consist of a wooden framework (usually oak) that was infilled to create solid walls. Infill material used included wattle and daub, lath and plaster, brick and weather board. Brick nogging, (brick infill) was often used in the 17th and 18th centuries to replace earlier wattle and daub or lath and plaster infill as it was longer lasting" [2].

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is the working farmyard located on the western side of the River Weaver Valley south of the Winsford Bottom Flash. The setting of the asset contributes positively to its value as it retains its historic context of a working farmyard surrounded by farmland.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and archaeological interest as an example of the 17th century farmhouses that arose as land was enclosed in Cheshire for increased dairy farming production.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160503>.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7949>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0028

Asset name: Dairy House Farm (now Stanthorne Park Mews)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368290 364785

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 6812
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is an ornamental late 19th century farmhouse, now known as Stanthorne Park Mews. The building is locally listed. It is dated to 1890 on the façade and this is confirmed by its first depiction on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map [1].

There are two gate posts in front. The main building is two story, red brick built with timber framed details on the first floor. It forms part of a distinctive type associated with the estate owned by the Verdin family; red brick and applied timber-frame on the first floor. There are red tiles on pitched roof with two gables to the front and side. The main range and entrance are to the north east with wing towards the courtyard and the south west. There are large chimney stacks above.

Setting description:

The setting of the Dairy House Farm is set within a courtyard of former farm buildings, within farmland used for pasture south of Clive Green Lane. The historic context of the farmhouse, which continues to be a residential building, has been diminished by the conversion of the distinctive courtyard of 19th century farm buildings to flats. To the west is a courtyard of barns (now converted to residential properties). These do not form part of the locally listed buildings, they probably date to the 1890s and first appear on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map in their current plan of three buildings around a central courtyard. The courtyard has now been converted to a garden. To the south-west are former stables, now converted to garages. Otherwise, the buildings retain their historical agricultural context within farmland, including a horse paddock to the rear. This is despite the loss of historic pattern of fields where some hedgerows have been replaced with wire fences. The sound of the existing WCML is audible in the background intermittently and would always have formed part of this historic context due to the age of the asset. The historically rural setting of the asset is retained, contributing positively to its heritage value.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest. It is an example of a 19th century ornamental farmhouse with a distinctive revived brick and timber framed style typical of the mid Cheshire rural area, but accentuated by good architectural features which increase its value above many similar buildings.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0029

**Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal,
Clive Green Lane Bridge**

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-305

National Grid Reference: 368140 365070

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A road bridge over the Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Canal. The bridge has been substantially rebuilt in the 20th century from the one that formally occupied this location in c. 1830. Elliptical brick arch, with stone bands and copings on the parapet. Single elliptical arch, with a solid parapet and piers. The towpath surface underneath is brick ribbed with concrete coping. Clive Green Lane is heavily used by traffic. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is on the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037), a quiet rural canal passing through a flat landscape of farmland divided by hedgerows. The setting of the canal is in a slight cutting and beneath the bridge the area is enclosed. Views from the parapet of the bridge are directed north and south down the canal in this cutting. Traffic over the bridge is busy during the day and introduces traffic noise not in keeping with the original context of the bridge as a part of a quiet country lane. Its setting in relation to the canal makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due its historical interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century. Its value has been reduced by extensive rebuilding of the bridge which has changed the material but retained the style of the bridge. It also has value associated with its relationship to the Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Canal.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Canal and Rivers Trust Records

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0031

Asset name: Methodist Chapel, Clive Green Lane

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 367830 365130

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Religious, ritual and funerary
Methodist chapel

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 4492/0/0
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The locally listed red brick, single storey Methodist Chapel dates to 1849. It has now been converted to residential housing. It was originally a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel later converted to a United Methodist Chapel [1]. The Methodist Chapel is first shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map in its current form and would have served the small rural hamlet of Clive Green [2].

Setting description:

The Methodist Chapel is set on the corner of Clive Green Lane, adjacent to the cottages of the hamlet of Clive Green, with farmland to its east. Clive Green Lane is busy with car traffic as a short-cut from the A530 Nantwich Road to Winsford. The Methodist Chapel's historic context as a focal point for the small hamlet has been eroded by the widening of the road and the frequency of the traffic, noise from which forms part of its setting. The transport corridors of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) to the east and WCML to the west surround the asset, the intermittent but distant noise of trains is present within this setting. The setting relative to Clive Green contributes positively to this value, despite the erosion of its intention as a focal point by increased road use.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and architectural interest as an example of non-conformist Christian chapels in rural Cheshire which survive in smaller rural settlements such as Clive Green.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, Available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH10970>
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1872-1882, Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch to 1 mile - Cheshire (Maps and Plans). SCH246

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0032

Asset name: Sherrif House, Nantwich Road

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369165 365200

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH10610
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Sherrif House is located just north-west of the A530 Nantwich Road. It is a two storey, red brick house that dates to the 19th century. A two-storey barn is located to the north-west, which has now been converted to an office. It is likely that these were originally the farmhouse and barn of a small farm complex. They are first shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map with their current plan with an adjacent orchard. The orchard is gone but the main farm building survives with an L-Shaped plan and the rectangular barn to the north-west. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the former farmhouse is adjacent to the busy A530 Nantwich Road. The farmhouse and its associated barn are surrounded by industrial units that are associated with a self-storage firm to the north and north-east, a wide entrance to these units with modern signage runs to the north of the asset. Beyond this, a modern residential property interrupts views between the farm and farmland to the west. Farmland is also present to the south, beyond the A350, mostly screened from the asset by trees. The setting makes a negative contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due its historic and architectural interest as a good example of a former 19th century farmhouse and associated barn.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0033

Asset name: Park Farmhouse, Clive Green Lane

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368378 365225

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160709
HER: 803/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Park Farmhouse is a red brick farmhouse with a mixture of brick bond styles and a slate roof. The earliest parts date to the 17th century with early 18th, 19th and 20th century additions. The 18th century gable ended, main wing faces south with a central ground floor doorway with windows either side. Above the central doorway a stone band forms a small pediment and there are two windows to the first floor left. The early 19th century wing was originally a separate cottage. At the rear there is a central recessed panel to the centre of the first floor stuccoed and with the date 1727 set in pebbles to the centre [1]. The Ordnance Survey map of 1874 shows the farmhouse, and an L-shape range of barns to the north-west. Two further barns to the north and east are no longer present. [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is a working farmyard east of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037), an access bridge over this canal also forms part of its setting. Surrounding the farmhouse and the canal bridge is the farmland of the Wimboldsley Plain, which also forms part of the setting. Beyond the farmyard the farmhouse is set in a quiet area of agricultural land, away from transport infrastructure. The farmhouse retains its historic context within the farmyard of 19th century red brick barns and 20th century farm buildings. Its entrance gives views south down the driveway to Clive Green Lane. However, the surrounding farmland has high hedgerows and wire fences which partially obscure the farmhouse in long distance views across the flat topography of the Wimboldsley Plain. The setting is in keeping with its historical context of a working farm and contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and architectural interest as an example of the 17th century

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

farmhouses that arose as land was enclosed in Cheshire for increased dairy farming production.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160709>.
- 2 Ordnance Survey 1874, 1 inch to Mile County Series Cheshire

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0034

**Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal
Bridge Number 28 carrying footpath over Canal**

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370008 365720

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330026
HER: DCH3783
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Footbridge No. 28 over the canal, is also referred to as Flea Land Bridge, dated 1829. It is one of several bridges associated with the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. It was designed by Thomas Telford. It is built of blue-brown and blue brick, with a slightly skewed basket arch with a stone band at path level. The brick parapets have square end-piers and recessed stone copings. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is on the urban section of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037). In this area the canal is in slight cutting and views from the canal are restricted to the east to west canal corridor. From the footway and parapet the bridge is set at the rear of 20th century suburban houses down a small lane. The area is quiet and away from the busy urban traffic. Its setting relative to the canal makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330026>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0035

Asset name: Middlewich Branch Canal Hughes Bridge at SJ 683 653

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368322 365350

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1261168
HER: DCH2460
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bridge No. 25, also known as Hughes Bridge, is an accommodation bridge in a design typical of Thomas Telford for the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. The bridge dates to the canal's construction in 1827-1833 with some 20th century repairs. It has a single basket arch, solid parapet and piers. [1] It provides a route between fields west of the canal and Wimboldsley Grange to the south east. The bridge provides accommodation from Park Farm north-west over the canal. The western part of the bridge lies in Winsford Civil Parish.

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is in a slight cutting on the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037). The surrounding landscape has relatively flat topography and is comprised of farmland with wire fences and few hedgerows which abut the canal. Principal views are relatively unaltered along the canal to and from the bridge. Its interconnection with Park Farm, which would have used the bridge to access farmland, is apparent. However, large modern farm buildings prevent views towards the earlier 17th to 19th century farmhouse and farmland and to the south-east. The canal retains a quiet, rural atmosphere which is integral to the setting of the bridge. The setting contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1261168>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0036

Asset name: Wallange Farm, Coal Pit Lane

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368965 365410

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH10612
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Wallange Farm is a locally listed, two-storey red brick 18th century farmhouse and associated tithe barn to the south. The farmhouse is a two-storey red brick farmhouse with a tiled pitched roof. The barn is a two storey, four bay red brick barn with a pitched grey slate roof. The buildings appear in their current plan on the Davenham Tithe map for Stanthorne Township (1839) and on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map [1]. Another barn that was located to the south is now not present. [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse and barn of Wallange Farm is in a small garden and farmyard set back from Coalpit Lane. The setting comprises the surrounding farmland with areas of mature woodland, trees and grown out hedgerows. To the west the farm is enclosed by hedgerows and some mature trees. The area is relatively quiet with bird noise audible above the sound of overhead planes and distant traffic, however Coalpit Lane is busy with traffic throughout the day. The asset's historic context is retained by its setting within farmland and positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and archaeological interest as an example of the 18th century farmhouses that arose as land was enclosed in Cheshire for increased dairy farming production. The unusual presence of a tithe barn within this group of farm buildings increases the group value of these assets.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 1839 Map of the Township of Stanthorne in the Parish of Davenham in the County of Chester (Ref: EDT 367/2).
- 2 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0037

Asset name: Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): MA01 Hough to Walley's Green

Map book reference: HE-01-304b

National Grid Reference: 368510 365545

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 10101/0/0
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0007 | Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 19 at 680 624 |
| MA02_0010 | Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 20 at SJ 679 630 |
| MA02_0018 | Middlewich Branch Canal Bridge Number 22 at SJ 676 640 |
| MA02_0029 | Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, Clive Green Lane Bridge |
| MA02_0034 | Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal Bridge Number 28 carrying footpath over Canal |
| MA02_0035 | Middlewich Branch Canal Hughes Bridge at SJ 683 653 |
| MA02_0040 | Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, Lock-Keeper's Cottage |
| MA02_0041 | Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal Bridge Number 30 carrying St Ann's Road over canal |
| MA02_0045 | Canal Bridge c.three yards downstream of Stanthorne Lock |
| MA02_0046 | Stanthorne Lock |
| MA02_0174 | Park Farmhouse |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal is set within the farmland of the Wimboldsley Plain in the west, transitioning to urban Middlewich in the east. The canal passes for 10 miles through a relatively flat rural landscape of fields, hedges and scattered trees. The Middlewich Branch was the final part of the Shropshire Union Canal to be built which included the Chester Canal (1770s), Ellesmere Canal (1790s) and the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal designed by Thomas Telford (c. 1826-1835) and William Cubitt (1833-1835). It was constructed following an Act of Parliament between 1827 and 1835. The canal itself is one of the last to be designed and lacks the architectural elements of the earlier parts of the Shropshire Union Canal system. However, it retains many distinctive Telford style accommodation bridges, locks and aqueducts all of which are Grade II listed. There are three locks on the branch canal, including the

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Grade II listed Stanthorne Lock. The locks retain original fabric, especially large coping stones, paved towpaths beneath bridges and areas of brick retaining walls. Buildings include a non-designated L-shaped early 20th century stable block between Bridges 18 and 19 (now converted to housing). The section between the Trent and Mersey Canal and Wardle Lock, including the Grade II listed Middlewich Wardle Lock Cottage is regarded as part of a separate canal the Wardle Canal. It was built by the Trent and Mersey Canal Company in order to control tolls and is contained within the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area and discussed separately. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch transitions from the farmland of the Wimboldsley Plain to urban Middlewich from west to east. Between Clive Green Lane and Coalpit Lane the canal lies within the flat topography of the Wimboldsley Plain. The Wimboldsley Plain is comprised largely of farmland interspersed with farmhouses and agricultural buildings and small settlements, small watercourses cross the area and there are pools created by subsidence. The asset is associated with the Grade II listed Hughes Bridge at SJ 68323 65350, which provides access across the canal for the Grade II listed Park Farmhouse (MA02_0174) to the south-east. These two elements form part of the rural historic context of the canal. The Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch is sometimes within a slight cutting or bordered by hedgerows or vegetation. It is partially screened from Coalpit Lane by mature woodland, this creates a sense of enclosure. This rural part of the setting of the canal is broadly unchanged since its construction. In Middlewich the canal passes over large brick aqueducts over the Nantwich Road and River Wheelock. Roads and former lanes which pass over the canal do so on red brick listed and 20th century concrete bridges. The assets within the town are enclosed by the surrounding townscape. The canal continues into Middlewich at the back of modern residential estates, representative of the expansion of Middlewich since the construction of the canal. Although the town has expanded, this has not fundamentally changed the historic context of the canal branch in linking the canal network to Middlewich. The setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the heritage asset as it continues to relate to the landscape of dairy farms and pasture.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a 19th century canal. It is diminished by its relatively late construction, which follows previous designs by Thomas Telford for more linear canals, raised on embankments and aqueducts that avoids contouring to a much greater extent. It is noted for its association with a number of Grade II listed red brick accommodation bridges, three locks and two aqueducts that date to the original construction of the canal in 1827-1835. Interest is also derived from the associated structures, especially bridges. These aid in understanding its development, especially the requirement to allow farms along the route to access land on both sides of the newly built canal.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Canal and Rivers Trust (2019), Statements of Significance, Middlewich Branch (W&B).

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0038

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal King's Lock

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370661 365623

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal lock

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138805
HER: DCH3585
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0039 | Trent and Mersey Canal Bridge Number 167 |
|-----------|--|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Canal lock on the Trent and Mersey Canal dated 1777. It has walls of stone and brick with a single upper and double lower gates of timber and a wooden footbridge on arched cast iron support. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lock is the Trent and Mersey Canal within an urban area as it passes through Middlewich, the canal corridor itself remains largely unchanged from the historic context of the lock. Its setting provides a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The lock is a representative example of lock construction on the canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138805>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0039

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal Bridge Number 167

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370656 365639

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1278980
HER: DCH3748
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| MA02_0038 | Trent and Mersey Canal King's Lock |
|-----------|------------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

An accommodation bridge over Trent and Mersey Canal, probably late 18th century in date. Built in brown brick with a narrow segmental arch. The brick parapets have stone copings. There are stone steps to the canal side. It crosses the canal over lower entrance to King's Lock. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is the Trent and Mersey Canal in Middlewich. It is associated with King's Lock on the canal. The bridge retains its historic context and association with the canal on the urban edges in an industrial area of Middlewich. Its setting relative to King's Lock and the canal makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The bridge represents an example of the bridges constructed on the canal and has group value with King's Lock (MA02_0038).

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1278980>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0040

Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, Lock-Keeper's Cottage

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370562 365695

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lock keepers cottage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138797
HER: DCH3577
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |
|-----------|---|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0043 | Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, Lock adjacent to Junction with Trent and Mersey Canal |
|-----------|--|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A lock-keeper's cottage dating to 1829 -1835. It is two storeys with a projecting cross-gable, and built in painted red brick with a roof of shaped clay tiles. It has square one-storey bay window to give the lock-keeper full view of canal. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lock-keeper's cottage is adjacent to its historically associated lock (MA02_0043) at the junction of the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal (MA02_0037) and the Trent and Mersey Canal. The cottage has a prominent position overlooking the lock and direct association with it. However, surrounding 20th century suburban housing has encroached on the historical context of the cottage, lock and canal. The setting of the cottage relative to the lock and canal makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of a lock-keeper's cottage built in conjunction with the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. It also has group value due to its association with the adjacent lock (MA02_0043).

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at:
<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138797>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0041

**Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal
Bridge Number 30 carrying St Ann's Road over
canal**

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-02-302b
National Grid Reference: 370361 365697

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138798
HER: DCH3578
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A road bridge over the canal, dated 1829, designed by Thomas Telford. Bridge no. 30 is also referred to as Etten's Bridge. It is built of blue-brown and blue brick, with a sharply skewed basket arch, and a stone band at road level. The brick parapets have square end-piers and recessed stone copings. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is on the urban section of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037). In this area the canal is in slight cutting and views from the canal are restricted on the canal corridor. From the parapet of the bridge the setting is associated with St Ann's Road, which it carries over the canal, a suburban Middlewich street of red brick 19th and 20th century houses. A 20th century flat span concrete footbridge with a metal parapet and railings has been inserted immediately to the west. Its setting relative to the canal contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138798>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0042

**Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal
Bridge Number 31 carrying Sutton Lane over canal**

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-02-302b
National Grid Reference: 370460 365700

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1279043
HER: DCH3750
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A canal road bridge, built in 1829, designed by Thomas Telford. Bridge No. 31 carries Sutton Lane over the canal. It is built in blue-brown and blue brick, with a sharply skewed basket arch and a stone band at road level. The brick parapets have square end-piers and recessed stone copings. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is on the urban section of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037). In this area the canal has emerged from slight cutting to the west and continues at grade. However, the canal has become enclosed on either side by 20th and 21st century housing that closely confines the canal in its narrow course. The bridge is only visible along the canal from east and west. The setting of the bridge from the parapet is associated with the suburban streets of Middlewich. Its setting relative to the canal contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1279043>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0043

Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, Lock adjacent to Junction with Trent and Mersey Canal

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370565 365703

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal lock

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229519
HER: DCH3644
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0040 | Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, Lock-Keeper's Cottage |
|-----------|--|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A canal lock adjacent to junction with Trent and Mersey Canal, dated 1829, designed by Thomas Telford. Its walls are of brick and stone with a single upper gate and double lower gates of timber. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lock is on the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) directly before its junction with the Trent and Mersey Canal. It is within the suburban streets of Middlewich and the canal is flanked on either side by 20th century housing which encloses the lock. The lock has a direct association with the adjacent lock-keeper's cottage (MA02_0040) which acts as a touchstone of it's former 19th century historical context. Its setting relative to the canal and lock keeper's cottage contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century. It also has historic interest associated with the canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229519>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0044

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal Bridge Number 168

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370621 365710

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330030
HER: DCH3787
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bridge carrying Booth Lane and Trent and Mersey towpath over the entrance to the Shropshire union Canal, Middlewich Branch. It was built in 1829 of brick and stone. It is constructed in brown English bond brickwork. This forms a deep segmental arch with rusticated stone voussoirs; plain projecting stone bands to road and towpath levels; stone copings; stone retaining wall to east side of road; stones set above crowns of arch to towpath and west side of road are inscribed 'WARDLE CANAL 1829' in incised Roman capitals. The section of the canal was formerly known as the Wardle Canal and designed to collect tolls for the Trent and Mersey Canal where it connected with the Middlewich Branch [1].

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is at the junction of the Trent and Mersey Canal and the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch in urban Middlewich. The surrounding area is a mix of industrial land and residential housing. The bridge retains its historic context in association with the canals. Its setting relative to the canal contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and architectural interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The bridge is a representative example of the bridges constructed for this canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330030>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0045

Asset name: Canal Bridge c.three yards downstream of Stanthorne Lock

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369278 365743

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1310417
HER: DCH2532
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |
| MA02_0046 | Stanthorne Lock |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a cattle bridge across the canal, three yards downstream of Stanthorne Lock. The National Heritage List for England entry dates the bridge as c. 1793 but this would appear to be incorrect as the canal was not constructed until after 1827. A more likely date is 1829-1835 in keeping with the remainder of the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal, in which case it was likely designed by Thomas Telford. The bridge is built in red brick in English garden wall bond with stone dressings. It has a single span, basket arch with brick voussoirs, and a stone band above marking the lower level of parapet. There is chamfered stone coping to parapet and the retaining walls to either side are slightly canted forward and terminate in square piers with pyramidal stone caps. The bridge provides accommodation to the south of the canal from Coal Pit Lane on a track. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is adjacent to the Grade II listed Stanthorne Lock (MA02_0046). It is part of an inter-related group where the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) descends towards the River Wheelock valley. The canal continues in to Middlewich on embankments and aqueducts with the valley below. The surrounding farmland is otherwise flat with high hedgerows and occasional copses on the south-western edge of Middlewich. The bridge retains much of the historic context it would have had when the canal was constructed. This setting contributes positively to its heritage value, as it maintains the rural relationship with the farms and fields for which the accommodation bridge allowed access over what would have been a new transport link. Its setting relative to the canal contributes positively to its value.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The bridge has value as one of a group of accommodation bridges on the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal designed by Thomas Telford. The utilitarian design has architectural interest for a style of bridge developed in the mid 19th century as part of one of the later canals built on the canal network.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1310417>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0046

Asset name: Stanthorne Lock

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369250 365745

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal lock

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1329816
HER: DCH2568
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0037 | Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch |
|-----------|---|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0045 | Canal Bridge c.three yards downstream of Stanthorne Lock |
|-----------|--|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Stanthorne Lock is built in red brick with stone dressings. There is a single gate to the upstream end of the lock and double gates to the downstream end. The National Heritage List for England entry dates the lock as c. 1793 but this would appear to be incorrect as the canal was not constructed until after 1827. A more likely date is 1829-1835 in keeping with the remainder of the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lock is associated with the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) on a rural stretch of the canal raised above the surrounding land on embankment. As the land slopes down to the river valley of the Wheelock the lock descends to the east. It is intrinsically associated with the rural landscape through which the canal passes. To the west of Coal Pit Lane mature woodland acts as a buffer between this stretch of the canal as it enters Middlewich and the remainder of the canal to the west. Its setting on the canal contributes positively to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1329816>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0047

Asset name: Yew Tree Farmhouse, off Coal Pit Lane

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368600 365780

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This asset is a red brick 19th century farmhouse, which stands to the west of the main farm buildings. It has a linear, east-west plan and was first depicted on the 1874/1875 Ordnance Survey map. [1] Buildings are shown in the same location on the Stanthorne tithe map which may represent an earlier farmstead in the same location. Therefore there is potential for the remains of an earlier farmstead. [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is within its private garden and associated with large 20th century barns within its farmyard. This is within farmland used for pasture north of the Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch (MA02_0037) and west of Coalpit Lane. Additionally, there appears to be two surviving 19th century barns: a linear, north-south plan barn and a further L-shaped plan barn to the east. The farmhouse retains its historic context in its setting as a working farm. Its setting positively contributes value, as it retains the historic context of a working farmyard.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its historic and architectural interest as an example of the 19th century farmhouses in Cheshire. The potential remains of an earlier farmstead have archaeological interest derived from the ability to inform on the development of post-medieval farmsteads in rural Cheshire.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Stanthorne Tithe Map and Award, available online at: <https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0048

**Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal
Aqueduct carrying canal over River Wheelock**

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 369579 365787

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Aqueduct

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138799
HER: DCH3579
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The blue brick aqueduct has a wide semi-circular arch with three rings of brick voussoirs, with curved parapets that end in circular stone piers. It has raked retaining walls to the river banks with stone copings. The aqueduct dates to 1829 in common with the other structures on the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal [1]. It is likely to have been designed by Thomas Telford.

Setting description:

The setting of the aqueduct is in an area of fields for pasture on the western edge of Middlewich. The canal is retained on embankments overlooking the minor watercourse of the River Wheelock which passes below in a narrow, shallow valley lined by mature trees. This means that the setting of the structural elements of the bridge are tree covered and visibility of them is limited to the immediate valley. Its setting, especially relative to the River Wheelock and its associated valley, makes a positive contribution to this value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138799>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0049

Asset name: Middlewich Branch of Shropshire Union Canal, aqueduct carrying canal over Nantwich Road

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 369732 365798

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Aqueduct

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229541
HER: DCH3645
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This stretch of the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal is carried over the A530 Nantwich Road on a large brick aqueduct. The road runs at the base of the River Wheelock valley. The aqueduct is built of blue brick. It has a wide semi-circular arch with three rings of brick voussoirs, and curved parapets that end in circular stone piers. The aqueduct dates to 1829 in common with the other structures on the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal. [1] It is likely to have been designed by Thomas Telford.

Setting description:

The setting of the aqueduct is associated with the canal where the A530 Nantwich Road passes under it in a cutting and tunnel, on the western edge of Middlewich. The canal passes over on an embankment planted with mature trees and is not readily visible from the road. The aqueduct is screened from the canal by these same elements, and can only be observed from the road. The character of the road is suburban/rural as it passes the western boundary of Middlewich between detached houses and gently rolling fields, lined by hedges, grassed slopes and mature trees. This setting retains the historic context of the asset. The setting relative to the canal and road makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural interest as an example of the work of the engineer Thomas Telford who was one of the principal canal designers of the 19th century. It has historic interest associated with the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229541>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0050

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal, Canal Milepost at NGR 7064 6585

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370654 365875

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal milepost

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138804
HER: DCH3584
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A cast iron canal milepost dated to 1819. It has a tapered circular stem inscribed 'R&D STONE 1819' on a raised quatrefoil. It also has a curved plate inscribed 'SHARDLOW 75 MILES: PRESTON BROOK 17 MILES'. The milepost is topped with a domed cap. All the lettering is in Roman capitals [1].

Setting description:

The setting of the asset is on the Trent and Mersey Canal in an urban area of Middlewich, characterised by residential housing and remnant industrial areas. The setting of the asset positively contributes to its value due to its continued association with its historic context of the canal.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The milepost is a representative example of the mileage markers on the canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138804>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0051

Asset name: Canal Stables and Sawpit House

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370617 365880

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Stable

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138791
HER: DCH3571
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0052 | Trent and Mersey Canal, House and Attached Canal Office |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A range of service buildings, constructed for the Trent and Mersey Canal. The sawpit building has early features and could well share the c. 1777 canal date but the stables are probably early 19th century. The sawpit house has two window bays and is a single storey. It has two-light-casements and a double ledged and braced door, on strap hinges with sandstone hinge blocks, under a chamfered beam in gable-end (east). The gable has exposed purlins and barge boards with a lead ridge. The interior has a brick-built saw pit along the full length of building, approximately 7.5m long, 1.5m wide and 1.8m deep. This is said to have been used for cutting lock gate beams. The roof is supported by a collar truss with short king post and there are two chamfered purlins. The stable block has two truss bays and is one storey with a loft. The feeding passage has a boarded door within a rebated brick opening, under a gauged elliptical arch with stone keystone. The door is on strap hinges with stone hinge blocks. The stable entry has double doors, similar to those in the sawpit building but with the elliptical arch springing from the upper hinge blocks. Between the doors there is a small wood window of which the upper section is a hopper light. The window is surmounted, at loft level, by a circular pitch hole with stone surround. There is a small loft level, east gable, window which overlooks the roof of the sawpit building. There are patterns of breather holes in the apexes of east and west gables and projecting brick verge and eaves treatment slightly suggestive of the open pediment. The roof has a blue clay tile ridge. To the interior, the roof has a single king post truss without struts. There are no remaining internal features indicative of the original use of the building [1].

Setting description:

The setting of the service buildings and stables is in an area of urban Middlewich north of the Trent and Mersey Canal. The asset retains its historic context and association with the canal, but is now located between light industrial buildings to the south-west and residences to the north. A canal house and office (MA02_0052) are to its north-east. The setting of the structures provides a positive contribution to their

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The buildings represent examples of the canal support infrastructure.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138791>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0052

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal, House and Attached Canal Office

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370650 365885

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal office

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229629
HER: DCH3652
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| MA02_0051 | Canal Stables and Sawpit House |
|-----------|--------------------------------|

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|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A house and office dated c. 1820 extended c. 1840. They are built in English Garden Wall bond and Flemish bond brickwork with grey slate roofs, that belonging to the office is graded. The house is two storeys high with three windows on each floor.

The central and left bay are c.1840 of redder brick in Flemish bond. The door has been replaced, but a radial bar fanlight is retained in an ornate flat-roofed porch of cast iron. There are six-pane casement and a six-pane French window to right and six-pane French window to the left;. There are three six-pane casements to upper storey.

There is a flush gable chimney on the left-hand side and a ridge chimney between the central and right-hand bays. The right-hand bay, c. 1820, was built with the office. The office is one storey and has two windows. There is a round-arched passage at the junction with house, with a carved head as keystone.

The two windows are three-light small-pane casements under gauged brick cambered arches with no cills. The right gable-end overlooks the towpath and canal,. It has a pretty gabled oriel window with round cast-iron mullions, on a large shaped red sandstone corbel, and ornate fretted bargeboards. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the asset is on the western bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal in an area of urban Middlewich, it retains its context relative to the canal and to the stables (MA02_0051) to its west.

The setting positively contributes to the assets value due to the continued association with its historic context of the canal.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and architectural interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The buildings represent examples of the canal support infrastructure.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229629>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0053

Asset name: 66, St Ann's Road

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370105 365953

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Terraced house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229586
HER: DCH3649
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-------------------|
| MA02_0054 | 64, St Ann's Road |
| MA02_0055 | 62, St Ann's Road |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A two-storey late 17th century house, rendered with smooth quoins and slate roof. All window openings have cambered heads with moulded keystones (matching No. 64, St Ann's Road) and projecting stone sills. Late 19th and 20th century refurbishment has destroyed or concealed other features. [1]

Setting description:

The building forms part of a group of with Numbers 62 (MA02_0055) and 64 (MA02_0054), St Ann's Road. The setting of these buildings is on the suburban streets of Middlewich characterised by 19th century villas and terraces. The houses front onto the road that is characterised by on-street car parking. The historic context of the buildings was in an area separate from Middlewich town centre around Newton Hall that has subsequently been absorbed into the suburban townscape. Its setting contributes neutrally to its heritage value as it would have formerly been more rural in aspect and has subsequently become part of the historic town.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a good quality 17th century house surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at:

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229586>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0054

Asset name: 64, St Ann's Road

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370101 365960

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Terraced house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330028
HER: DCH3785
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-------------------|
| MA02_0053 | 66, St Ann's Road |
| MA02_0055 | 62, St Ann's Road |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A two-storey, late 17th century house, with an attic. Built in Flemish bond brown brickwork with grey slate roof. A bay window has been added in the 19th century. Some early features survive in the interior. [1]

Setting description:

The building forms part of a group of with Numbers 62 (MA02_0055) and 66 (MA02_0053), St Ann's Road. The setting of these buildings is on the suburban streets of Middlewich characterised by 19th century villas and terraces. The houses front onto the road that is characterised by on-street car parking. The historic context of the buildings was in an area separate from Middlewich town centre around Newton Hall that has subsequently been absorbed into the suburban townscape. Its setting contributes neutrally to its heritage value as it would have formerly been more rural in aspect and has only subsequently become part of the historic town.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and archaeological interest as an example of a good quality 17th century house surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330028>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0055

Asset name: 62, St Ann's Road

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370090 365981

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Terraced house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229584
HER: DCH3648
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-------------------|
| MA02_0053 | 66, St Ann's Road |
| MA02_0054 | 64, St Ann's Road |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A late 18th century house with Flemish bond brown brickwork and a grey slate roof. There is an added timber-framed gothic porch. It is two storeys, plus attics, and has three windows. On the façade at each storey. It has an added, timber-framed Gothic porch with ogee arch, two-light trefoil-headed sidelights and fretted bargeboards with finials. The windows are horned two-pane replaced sashes, of late 19th century type, with keystone wedge lintels and projecting stone cills. The building has moulded eaves fascia. There are two small-pane gabled dormers to attics. It has flush gable chimneys. [1]

Setting description:

The building forms part of a group of with Numbers 64 (MA02_0054) and 66 (MA02_0053), St Ann's Road. The setting of these buildings is on the suburban streets of Middlewich characterised by 19th century villas and terraces. The houses front onto the road that is characterised by on-street car parking. The historic context of the buildings was in an area separate from Middlewich town centre around Newton Hall that has subsequently been absorbed into the suburban townscape. Its setting contributes neutrally to its heritage value as it would have formerly been more rural in aspect and has only subsequently become part of the historic town.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and archaeological interest as an example of a good quality 18th century housing surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229584>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0056

Asset name: Newton Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370048 365998

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Country house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138801
HER: DCH4727
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-----------------|
| MA02_0060 | Newton Old Hall |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The two-storey, mid 18th century house is built in red-brown brick, with a pitched slate roof. The symmetrical left wing is attached to Newton Old Hall. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the hall is within the urban suburbs of Middlewich where it has been subsumed in 19th and 20th century housing estates and enclosed by the Middlewich Primary School. The adjacent and earlier Newton Old Hall (MA02_0060, also Grade II listed), which abuts the building to the north-west, forms part of the surviving historic context of the building. The setting of the asset, in particular Newton Old Hall (MA02_0060), makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a good quality 18th century house surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138801>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0057

Asset name: Site of Stanthorne Hospital

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369000 366000

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Health and welfare
Hospital

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 862/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Stanthorne is first mentioned in 1277. It was possibly the site of the lazar house of Vale Royal Abbey, mentioned in 1291. The location marked on the Historic Environment Record is east of Coal Pit Land, 500m south-west of Mill Farm. This is accurate to only to the 1km national grid reference and could be anywhere in Stanthorne. [1]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as the site of a medieval hospital. However, the extent and survival of the remains, as well as their exact location, is unknown.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7867>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0058

Asset name: Stanthorne Weir and Bridge

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369556 366005

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Water supply and drainage
Weir

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160727
HER: DCH2269
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-----------------|
| MA02_0064 | Stanthorne Mill |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A weir upstream of a small pedestrian bridge over the River Wheelock. The bridge is built in red and black brick in engineering bond with stone copings. It has a round arch, brick voussoirs and a concave retaining walls to either side terminating in square piers to either end. The bridge dates to c. 1850. The weir has a canted waterfall on the upriver side of the bridge. It is likely that this has been used to retain the headwater for the Grade II listed Stanthorne Mill located 300m downstream. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the weir and bridge is in the base of the River Wheelock valley surrounded by mature woodland. Although fields are visible to the west, the topography means the bridge and weir have an enclosed setting focused upon the river. The weir and bridge retain their historic context associated with the river. The setting positively contributes to this value as it retains the historic context of the river.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and archaeological interest as an example of a 19th century weir and bridge over the River Wheelock.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160727>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0059

Asset name: Well in Rear Garden of Number 3 (Newton Old Hall)

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370030 366008

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Water supply and drainage
Well

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138800
HER: DCH3580
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-----------------|
| MA02_0060 | Newton Old Hall |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The well in the garden of Old Newton Hall is probably 18th century or earlier in date. It has a circular shaft with dry brick lining and brick parapet. It is a good example, being clean, complete and usable. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the well is the gardens of Newton Old Hall (MA02_0060) in the town of Middlewich. The garden of the hall is surrounded by suburban houses and to the west Middlewich Primary School. Despite the encroachment of the later suburbs of Middlewich the well retains its historic context and association with Newton Old Hall. The setting contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a good example of a well within the gardens of the associated Grade II listed Newton Old Hall (MA02_0060).

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138800>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0060

Asset name: Newton Old Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370042 366009

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Country house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1279020
HER: DCH3749
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| MA02_0056 | Newton Hall |
|-----------|-------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0059 | Well in Rear Garden of Number 3 (Newton Old Hall) |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Newton Old Hall is a two storied, L-Plan house of brown brick in irregular bond with a stone-slate roof and attics. The date '1604' is painted on the bargeboard. There is a 19th century lean-to kitchen against the right gable. The interior has surviving beams and timber framed elements. The house adjoins the later Grade II listed Newton Hall (MA02-056). [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the hall is in the urban suburbs of Middlewich, where it has been subsumed in the 19th and 20th century housing estate and enclosed by the Middlewich Primary School. The playing fields of the primary school and adjacent St Mary's Catholic School are the only survival of the once rural context and as such its setting is largely 20th century in origin. The inter relationship with the adjacent and later Newton Hall (also Grade II listed), which was added in the 18th century and abuts the building to the south-east, and the associated well in the rear garden (grade II listed) form the surviving part of its historic context. Despite the loss of rural context, the setting contributes positively to this value due to the survival of associated assets.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of 16th century hall on the former outskirts of Middlewich. Its value has been diminished from the highest level by the addition of the later 18th century Newton Hall which is directly adjacent. This however, creates a group of Grade II listed assets with group value including the asset, Newton Hall and the Well in the rear of Newton Old Hall.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1279020>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0061

Asset name: 33 and 33a, Lewin Street

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370480 366049

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Timber framed house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138796
HER: DCH3576
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0292 | Middlewich Area of Archaeological Potential |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The houses are two former cottages converted to two shops and living accommodation and much altered. The original buildings date to 1604. They are constructed with oak timber framing with plaster panels, exposed at front and left gable-end. The steep roof was probably formerly thatched, but now is slated. The two shop fronts were likely inserted in the early 20th century. The interior has some chamfered oak beams visible in No. 33. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is within an urban area on the busy A553 as it leaves Middlewich heading south in the direction of Crewe. This is altered from its historic context on the fringes of the town in the 17th century, however it retains its historic relationship to the road and setting relative to Middlewich. Its setting relative to the road and central Middlewich makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic, architectural and archaeological interest as one of the few timber framed buildings surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138796>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0062

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal, three locks and two intermediate basins, with dry dock off upper basin

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370735 366058

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal lock

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138803
HER: DCH3583
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Three locks and two linking basins dated 1777 and built of stone and brick. The locks have walls of brick and stone with inset posts of oak, paired lower gates and single upper gates of timber and wooden footbridges, without handrails, on wrought-iron arched supports. There is a stone-walled basin between each pair of locks with sides curved in plan to allow width for passing of boats. The lower lock has mid 20th century stepped concrete retaining wall to bank of adjacent Sanderson's Brook. The upper two locks have curved flights of stone steps. A dry dock, probably dates to the late 18th century but has been altered. The brick basin is original but the entrance from canal basin has been replaced in concrete. The dock, still in use, is sheltered by a late 20th century shed of lightweight dry construction. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the locks and two linking basins is associated with the Trent and Mersey Canal, in an urban area of Middlewich. The asset's retain their historic context despite the changes to the surrounding urban landscape, this makes a positive contribution to their value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The locks and two linking basins represent examples of the canal infrastructure.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138803>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0063

Asset name: 25, Queen Street

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1
National Grid Reference: 370329 366144

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Detached house
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229577
HER: DCH3647
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| MA02_0066 | Middlewich Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

25 Queen Street is a two storied, red brick house built in Flemish bond, with a slate roof. It likely dates to the early 19th century. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is a quiet residential street just outside the town centre of Middlewich. Its setting is intrinsically associated with the urban area of Middlewich. Although it has lost some of its original historic context due to the development of modern houses on the street, it continues to have an association with a line of 19th century houses to the south and clear views of the Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0068) to the north. The setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset due to surviving 19th century context.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a good quality 19th century town villa surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229577>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0064

Asset name: Stanthorne Mill

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369430 366167

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Industrial
Watermill

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1329815
HER: DCH2567
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0058 | Stanthorne Weir and Bridge |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The whitewashed brick mill building is in the small and narrow River Wheelock valley. It is three-storeys tall with an attic and a slate roof. It dates to the 18th century with later 19th and 20th century additions. In the interior there is some machinery surviving including drive shaft and wheels with metal cogs, and a sack pulley to top floor. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the mill is in the bottom of the narrow valley of the River Wheelock. The valley is wooded but the mill is surrounded by meadows. The land rises to the west and topography means that the mill is enclosed within its setting. It retains its association with the river and its historic context with little intrusion from later development. The setting is key to understanding the historic function of the asset and provides a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset is derived from its architectural interest and in its power to illustrate the historic importance of mills.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1329815>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0065

Asset name: 8, Southway

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370087 366175

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Detached house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138802
HER: DCH3582
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The house probably dates to the 1830s but was altered c. 1900. It is two-storeys high and built in Flemish bond brickwork with a roof of lozenge-shaped grey slates. The alterations involved the addition of an Edwardian one-storey square bay window inserted left of door. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is a residential area in the centre of Middlewich. To the south is Saint Ann's Road, with even rows of residences branching off this. To the immediate east is a large superstore and car park, the entrance to which is adjacent to the house. This means that the house has lost much of its historic context, however a small amount of green space to its north is retained to the back of surrounding residences. The setting makes a neutral contribution to its value, due to the erosion of much historic context by subsequent development in the area.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a good quality 19th century house surviving in Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138802>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0066

Asset name: Middlewich Conservation Area

Designation and grade: Conservation area

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370240 366220

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Settlement

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0063 | 25, Queen Street |
| MA02_0067 | Sundial south of west bay of Church of St Michael and All Angels |
| MA02_0068 | Church of St Michael and All Angels |
| MA02_0069 | 10, Hightown |
| MA02_0070 | 28, Wheelock Street |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The Middlewich Conservation Area comprises the historic core of the town centre and has the town's primary landmark within its boundary, the 15th century Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0068). The core of the medieval town was centred around the church, Wheelock Street to the west and the Bull Ring and Leadsmithy Street going down towards the River Dane. Although salt production was important in the medieval period, it was the revival of the salt industry in the 19th century that led to the construction of most of the buildings that define the conservation area. Along Wheelock Street is a mix of 19th century, red brick, two and three storey town houses, and commercial properties. The church is at the eastern end of Wheelock Street, in a triangle of land formed by Wheelock Street, Leadsmithy Street and the modern St Michael's Way. The conservation area is enclosed and surrounded by later housing and commercial estates. It is on the Heritagae at Risk Register. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The conservation area is set in the historic core of Middlewich, enclosed by later development from the post-medieval and modern periods comprised of transport infrastructure and housing developments. The land rises gently to the east and the conservation area has an enclosed feeling with no long distance views out from the centre. The buildings in the west of the conservation area face onto Wheelock Street and from their facades the busy bypass is audible but not visible. This area retains an enclosed feel separate to its surroundings. At the north-east of the conservation area Wheelock Street opens onto the busy A54 St

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Michael's Way to the north and the setting here is dominated by road noise and traffic. However the setting here maintains a sense of openness, with the church and church grounds prominent in views along the road. The A54 separates the conservation area from the 20th century residential developments to its north. Views past the A54 are screened at ground level by mature vegetation in the gardens opposite. In the east the conservation area is bounded by the A533 and a mixture of modern and post-medieval buildings which are residential and commercial, the streetscape is dominated by two-storey red brick buildings with slate roofs. Beyond the A533 is the Trent and Mersey Canal - Middlewich to Kent Green Conservation Area (MA02_0314). To the south east the townscape is more open, comprising small car parks and sports fields bounded by low hedges. To the south-west tight rows of red brick Victorian and early 20th century buildings form the setting, before opening to a large carpark to their north which bounds the southern extent of the conservation area to the east. The housing estates to the south and east are located on former industrial plots. This setting retains some historic context of the urban centre of Middlewich, although many of the surrounding buildings post-date the conservation area. The canal to the east contributes to the historic context of the conservation area, which experienced development following the boom of the salt industry associated with the canal. Openness in the public space near the A54 and a rise in topography directs views towards the conservation area, and especially to the war memorial and Church of St Michael. The setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the heritage asset. Mature vegetation on both sides of the road also contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The conservation area derives its value from its historic and archaeological interest as the core of the medieval town. Although only a single asset the Grade II* listed Church of St Michael and All Angels survives from this era, the pattern of streets fossilises the former plan of the town. It also has architectural interest due to the predominance of good quality 18th and 19th century buildings throughout the conservation area.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire East Local Development Framework, Middlewich Snapshot Report. Available online at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/spatial_planning/cheshire_east_local_plan/cheshire_east_local_plan.aspx
- 2 Historic England Listing. Available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/list-entry/2561>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0067

Asset name: Sundial south of west bay of Church of St Michael and All Angels

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370397 366231

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Gardens, parks and urban spaces
Sundial

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229502
HER: DCH3643
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0066 | Middlewich Conservation Area |
| MA02_0068 | Church of St Michael and All Angels |
| MA02_0292 | Middlewich Area of Archaeological Potential |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A Copper sundial mounted on a stone vase baluster on a circular stone step with a brick base. The date is illegible but it probably dates to the late 18th century. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the sundial is the churchyard of the Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0068). The churchyard is small and tightly confined in a triangle of three busy streets: Leadsmithy Street, Hightown and St Michael's Way which form the urban centre of Middlewich. The sundial is situated south of the church in one corner of this urban churchyard next to the A533 Leadsmithy Street which is subject to almost constant traffic. Despite this it retains its historic context associated with the church. Its setting within the churchyard makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of post-medieval churchyard furniture. It also has associative value with the adjacent Grade II* listed Church of St Michael and All Angels.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229502>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0068

Asset name: Church of St Michael and All Angels

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370390 366250

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Religious, ritual and funerary
Anglican church

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE: 1138795
HER: DCH357
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| MA02_0066 | Middlewich Conservation Area |
|-----------|------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0067 | Sundial south of west bay of Church of St Michael and All Angels |
|-----------|--|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0292 | Middlewich Area of Archaeological Potential |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The church is the parish church for Middlewich. The earliest parts date to the 12th century but is largely c. 1500 but was heavily restored by Joseph Clarke 1857-60. It is built in red sandstone with a low-pitched roof. The north-west tower is a crenelated three-stage tower. There is an aisled nave with a south porch, a chancel with chapels continuing from the nave aisles. The interior retains the earliest elements of the 12th century Norman church in the piers and aisle of the nave. There are 16th and 17th century wooden screens to the chapels and tower vestry, some of which are inscribed and painted with heraldic emblems. The east stained-glass window glass dates to 1860 and memorial stained glass windows date to the late 19th century and early 20th century. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the church is in Middlewich Town Centre, within Middlewich Conservation Area (MA02_0066). It is on a small outcrop with land rising gradually to the south-west and dropping sharply to the north and east. The church has its own churchyard with a stone boundary wall (evidence of removed railings) with grave slabs forming part of the surfacing. The churchyard is small and tightly confined in a triangle of three busy streets: Leadsmithy Street, Hightown and St Michael's Way which form the urban centre of Middlewich. There is a public realm area to the north-west. The noise of traffic represents its urban location, but its dominance within the setting detracts from the intended peacefulness of the churchyard. There are important views of the church from surrounding roads as the topography allows the church to stand out proudly from the lower streets. The buildings down both Wheelock Street and Queen Street frame views of the church's tower. The sundial south-west of the Church of St Michael and All Angels (MA02_0067) located

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

within churchyard, has a direct relationship with it. This setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and archaeological interest due to its age which dates to the 12th century in part but predominately dates to the 16th century. It has archaeological interest due to the potential to understand the construction of medieval churches. It also has architectural interest due to its gothic form, interior features and continued development up to and including the 20th century.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138795>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0069

Asset name: 10, Hightown

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370327 366250

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Commercial
Butchers shop

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138769
HER: DCH3568
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| MA02_0066 | Middlewich Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

10 Hightown consists of the original house and a later butcher's shop. The house is early 18th century with early and mid 19th century additions. It is built of whitewashed random bond brick with a thatched roof, two-storeys high. The entrance is at the front via a 19th century gabled porch. The rear has a mid 19th century wing and outshut. The front was originally a butcher's shop at time of listing and is now a restaurant. The butcher's shop probably dates to 1928 (dated tile panels). Built in red brick with white, brown and cream glazed-tile facade and interior, with a welsh slate roof. It is a single-storey, double-fronted shop with small store-room wing to rear. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is on High Town, opposite the churchyard of the Church of St Michael's and All Angels (MA02_0068). Its setting is urban in nature and retains its historic context in the town centre of Middlewich, as captured by Middlewich Conservation Area (MA02_0066). Its setting therefore contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic interest and association with Middlewich Conservation Area. Although it retains some architectural interest and features of note, such as the tiled exterior, much of its original architectural merit has been masked by later shop fronts.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138769>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0070

Asset name: 28, Wheelock Street

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370206 366300

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Commercial
Shop

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229642
HER: DCH3654
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| MA02_0066 | Middlewich Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A three-storied, former house on Wheelock Street dating to c.1800. It is now a shop with accommodation above. It has a symmetrical facade that is built in Flemish bond brown brickwork, and a grey slate roof. The ground floor has a door with Tuscan columns and pediment surround. The shop window has been inserted left of door. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house and shop is on Wheelock Street, the main commercial street of Middlewich. Its setting is urban in nature and retains its historic context in the town centre of Middlewich, as captured by Middlewich Conservation Area (MA02_0066). Its setting within this conservation area and relative to other historic buildings in central Middlewich contributes positively to this value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a good example of an early 19th century house.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229642>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0071

Asset name: Kinderton Mill

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370487 366359

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Industrial
Watermill

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE: 1229548
HER: DCH3646
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0292 | Middlewich Area of Archaeological Potential |
| MA02_0303 | Kinderton Mill Leat |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The former water-powered cornmill, which has been converted to workshops, date to 1609. The mill is three storeys high with a two-storey late 18th century three-window wing to left, and a mid-19th century outshut at the front. Much of the original 17th century frontage comprises a projecting cross-wing. The mill is built in stone-dressed English bond brown brickwork with a grey slate roof. There is a stone on the interior inscribed '1609'. The mill had two internal wheels. No machinery survives, but the penstock to the right wheel-chamber is visible. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the mill is on the eastern banks of the Trent and Mersey Canal as it passes through Middlewich and is fed by the small River Croco. The canal and river in this location retain a semi-industrial feel as it passes through traces of former and current industrial buildings in Middlewich. The area surrounding the mill is predominantly industrial, with warehouses and an area of waste land directly north of the site. The mill lies down the short Mill Lane off the A54 Holmes Chapel Road and this gives it a sense of enclosure away from the main urban centre of Middlewich. The mill partially retains its historic context as an industrial building by the canal and river, but modern development has begun to encroach on it. Despite modern development, the retained relationship with the waterways makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and archaeological interest as a good example of a 17th century

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

water-powered corn mill. It retains many original features and its earlier date contributes to its heritage value.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229548>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0072

Asset name: Mortuary chapels, archway and spire in Middlewich Cemetery

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 369888 366558

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Religious, ritual and funerary
Mortuary chapel

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330024
HER: DCH3781
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|---|
| MA02_0073 | Gates and railings to Middlewich Cemetery |
|-----------|---|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0074 | Cooke Family Tomb in Middlewich Cemetery circa. 80 metres south of mortuary chapels |
|-----------|---|

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| MA02_0332 | Middlewich Cemetery |
|-----------|---------------------|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The mortuary chapels consist of a pair of parallel cemetery chapels linked by an archway with a spire. They were built in 1859 by Bellamy and Hardy in ashlar dressed, yellow stone with a grey slate roof. They have gothic detailing throughout. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the mortuary chapel is in Middlewich Cemetery, a quieter space away from the main town centre. The cemetery is bounded by housing estates which now surround it. The topography rises gently to the west and there is a sense of enclosure within the built-up area of Middlewich. The mortuary chapel retains its historic context in the Middlewich Cemetery. This positively contributes to the heritage value of the assets.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic interest and communal importance as part of the principal burial ground for Middlewich. It also has architectural interest as an example of a local architect designing the communal chapel.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330024>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0073

Asset name: Gates and railings to Middlewich Cemetery

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1
National Grid Reference: 369855 366445

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Monument
Gateway
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330025
HER: DCH3782
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0072 | Mortuary chapels, archway and spire in Middlewich Cemetery |
| MA02_0074 | Cooke Family Tomb in Middlewich Cemetery circa. 80 metres south of mortuary chapels |
| MA02_0332 | Middlewich Cemetery |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The decorated gates and railings to Middlewich Cemetery, face on to the A54 St Michael's Way. The cast iron cemetery gates and railings were made by Button of Crewe, probably date to 1859, and have been built on a stone plinth. The recessed gateway has a central pair of carriage gates, canted side screens, a pedestrian gate to each side and quadrant wings leading to straight railing to front of cemetery. They are a rare example of its period to have survived the removal of ironwork for steelmaking during the Second World War. [1]

Setting description:

The gates and railings act as a point of transition and their setting is associated with both the quiet Middlewich Cemetery and the A530 St Michael's Way, which is adjacent to the south, as it passes through the centre of Middlewich. They open on to the cemetery to the north and have a uniformity of symmetry with the listed mortuary to the north. The cemetery is backed by housing estates which now surround it. The topography rises gently to the west and there is a sense of enclosure within the built-up area of Middlewich. The gates and railings retain their historic context relative to the road, cemetery and chapel, therefore their setting makes a positive contribution to their heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic interest and communal importance as part of the principal burial ground for Middlewich. It also has architectural interest as a rare survival of 19th century gates.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330025>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0074

**Asset name: Cooke Family Tomb in Middlewich Cemetery
circa. 80 metres south of mortuary chapels**

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 369877 366479

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Religious, ritual and funerary
Tomb

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138792
HER: DCH3572
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

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|-----------|--|
| MA02_0072 | Mortuary chapels, archway and spire in Middlewich Cemetery |
|-----------|--|

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|-----------|---|
| MA02_0073 | Gates and railings to Middlewich Cemetery |
|-----------|---|

| | |
|-----------|---------------------|
| MA02_0332 | Middlewich Cemetery |
|-----------|---------------------|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The tomb is a monument of stone with square piers, surmounted by a spire dated to 1869.

There is an inscription in a gabled arched and a cusped panel on each side. The rectangular base stone is plain.

The inscriptions read: 'HERE LIES INTERRED IN ONE COFFIN ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE BODIES OF EDWARD COOKE AGED 40 YEARS, ELIZABETH HIS WIFE AGED 34 YEARS AND THEIR FOUR CHILDREN, ELLEN AGED 7 YEARS, SOPHIA AGED 4 YEARS, EDWARD AGED 2 YEARS AND MARY AGED 6 MONTHS' (west); 'ALSO ELIZABETH SHAW AGED 12 YEARS. ONE ENTIRE FAMILY BURNT TO DEATH AT THE CONFLAGRATION OF BRIERLY HULME FARM HOUSE, IN KINDERTON CUM HULME ON THE MORNING OF SUNDAY THE 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 1867' (south); "IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH" (east); 'ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION AD 1869' (north). The catastrophe is still remembered locally. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the tomb is in the Middlewich Cemetery set back from the busy A530 Chester Road. The distance from the road means that this is a quieter space which retains a sense of solemnity away from the main town centre. The cemetery backs on to housing estates which now surround it. The topography rises gently to the west and there is a sense of enclosure within the built-up area of Middlewich. The setting within Middlewich Cemetery makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic interest and communal importance as part of the principal burial ground for Middlewich.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138792>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0075

Asset name: 80, Wharton Road

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 365972 366525

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Coachmans cottage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1139185
HER: DCH2180
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The two storey, early 19th century house is built in painted red brick in Flemish bond with a slate roof. The front facade is of three bays with a central doorway with a ribbed door surround. Before the ground floor rooms is a glazed 20th century veranda on cast iron supports replacing an earlier, similar veranda, which also stood upon the wide stone flags before the house. To either gable end are two-storey bow windows. Each bow has a semi-conical roof masking the gable. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is in its own gardens on the corner of two busy urban streets; Wharton Road and East Dudley Street. The former coach house would have been in a rural location as part of the historic settlement of Wharton. The development of Winsford in the 19th century means it entirely lost its rural historic context and is now located within the urban core of Winsford. Its setting makes a negative contribution to its value, as its rural context has been lost to development.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of good quality 19th century coach house that has survived in Winsford.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139185>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0076

Asset name: Stanthorne Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368176 366556

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Country house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1139211
HER: 800
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------|
| MA02_0079 | Stanthorne Hall moat |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is an early 19th century, three-storey house with plum coloured Flemish bond brick and slate hipped roof [1]. It was built between 1804 and 1807 for Richard Dutton, who had purchased the estate from the Leicesters of Tabley [2]. The principal facade has three symmetrical bays of sash windows, set around a central ground floor doorway with Tuscan columns. The rear has a long, two-storey wing extending to the north. The interior has a decorated entrance hall, with an open well staircase of three flights. Two ground floor rooms have black marble chimney pieces [1]. There are several barns to the north and north-west which are visible on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map and are still extant today [2]. The two-storey, red brick barns have pitched roofs with a series of windows. There is an L-shaped block and linear block opposite around a central court farmyard. These have been converted to residential accommodation. To the north-west is a walled garden [1].

Setting description:

Stanthorne Hall is set at the end of its sweeping private drive in private gardens surrounded by the farmland of the former estate. Mature woodland lines the driveway and prevents eastwards views from Stanthorne Hall, this also forms part of the setting of the asset. The mature woodland frames the principal entrance to the hall from the south, where it overlooks farmland interspersed with trees towards the A54 Middlewich Road. From the road there is low level noise which is intermittent but frequent, although does not remove the ability to appreciate the rural setting of the asset. To the north and north-west the hall is closely surrounded by a walled garden and a series of 19th century barns which have been converted to residential accommodation. To the north-east, beyond this, are later 20th century farm buildings set around a drive and yard. Surrounding the garden and buildings are mixed use agricultural fields. The hall retains its historic context associated with the 19th century farm buildings and farmland with low hedgerows in a relatively flat landscape between the Wharton and Middlewich. The farm buildings are set slightly away from the hall,

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

therefore farmyard noise is present but not dominant in the setting. This setting makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as an example of an Italian influenced formal residence.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139211>.
- 2 Cheshire Shared services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7844>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0077

Asset name: Wharton War Memorial

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 366299 366600

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Commemorative
War memorial

Period(s): Modern

References

References: NHLE: 1437121
HER: DCH13924
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Wharton War Memorial was unveiled on 17 July 1920 and commemorates 78 servicemen from the parish who died during the First World War. The memorial was designed by Messrs Powles and King and built by Mr F Plumbly. It is approximately 5m tall and the Darley stone and timber memorial takes the form of a hooded Calvary. Incised into the front face of the pedestal is 'GREATER LOVE/ HATH NO MAN/ THAN THIS'. Below on the plinth the principal dedicatory inscription reads 'NEARLY 500 MEN/ FROM THE PARISH OF WHARTON/ SERVED KING AND COUNTRY/ IN THE GREAT WAR OF 1914-19 / OF THESE/ 78 LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR US / WHO, WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE/ ERECT THIS CROSS/ TO THEIR GLORIOUS MEMORY'. The commemorated names are listed on the other face of the plinth. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of Wharton War Memorial is the churchyard of Christ Church, Wharton, a Gothic Revival Church dating to 1838. The adjacent B5355 Crook Lane is a busy suburban street with regular traffic during the day and has always been a principal road through Wharton. The war memorial retains its historic context within the churchyard and the surrounding streets of late 19th century 20th houses and terraces. Its setting retains the historic context of the church and churchyard and surrounding streets, contributing positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic interest as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on this local community, and the sacrifice it has made in the First World War; It also has architectural interest as an elegant Calvary memorial built in an unusual combination of timber and stone. It is unusual in that the memorial has not been adapted for Second World War commemoration, and thus retains its original

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

design intent which adds to its value. It has communal value as a place of local remembrance.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1437121>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0078

Asset name: Stanthorne Lodge

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368620 366656

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lodge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160718
HER: DCH2268
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The lodge dates to the late 17th to early 18th century. It is brick built and rendered with a plain tile roof that was replaced in the 19th century. It is two-storeys high with an attic. The main entrance front faces north of four bays, with a projecting two-storey porch. To the rear and south are gabled projecting wings. These were formerly to either side of a central narrow courtyard which has now been roofed to form a slightly projecting porchway. The interior has chamfered ceiling beams to hallway and kitchen, and a wooden staircase. There are 19th century brick-built buildings that enclose the former farmyard to the south west. The original entrance to the north-east no longer serves as the main entrance to the property. [1]

Setting description:

Stanthorne Lodge is set within farmland south of the A54 Middlewich Road. It is set back from the south side of the road with mature woodland enclosing the property to the north, bordering the road. This vegetation screens from view the open farmland north of the A54, which itself severs the asset from this land. The relationship to farmland to the south of the property is experienced more directly, with open views over the field to the south-east. To the immediate west of the Lodge is a collection of mixed-period farm buildings set around a small yard, these further contribute to the rural, agricultural character of the Lodge's setting. The lodge and associated farm buildings are set in relation to the remnants of a more formal landscape. South of the lodge is a private garden and orchard, surrounded by hedgerows, which form part of the remains of this more formal landscape and contribute to a sense of enclosure around the lodge. Within the field to the south-west and west a row of mature trees runs north-south. This represents a late post-medieval field boundary, but may have framed an avenue prior to this. Views westward are restricted by the farm buildings, this line of trees and other vegetation at the western property boundary. To the north there is frequent traffic noise, somewhat deadened by the vegetation bordering the road. The setting to the south of the property is quieter and the experience of the asset is in relation to the somewhat open expanse

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

of rural, agricultural land to the south. The rural context of its setting makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as an example of post-medieval rural domestic architecture. It retains both external and internal features that contribute to its architectural interest and value.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160718>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0079

Asset name: Stanthorne Hall moat

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368250 366670

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Moat

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 800
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-----------------|
| MA02_0076 | Stanthorne Hall |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A small remaining section of what may have been the moat, located south of the present Stanthorne Hall. The present hall, of early 19th century date, lies near or on the site of the former manor house, which may have been surrounded by a moat. It was pulled down around 1810 though no description of it survives. The moat appears to have been largely infilled, but the north-east section still exists. The earliest records suggest that the manor of Stanthorne was in the possession of the Rahers family in the 13th and 14th centuries. In about 1800 the manor of Stanthorne was divided into Great and Little Stanthorne and sold. The manor and the hall were acquired by Richard Dutton. The modern Ordnance Survey map suggests the moat is possibly the remains of marl digging. It is Z-shaped with irregular sides and near vertical scarps up to 1.6m high. It spreads into a marl pit in the north and there is no trace of it having been a complete enclosure. [1]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as the potential remains of a moated site. The nature of the archaeological feature and its interpretation have not been confirmed by archaeological excavation and have been alternatively suggested as derived from post-medieval agricultural practices. The asset also appears to be incomplete, which diminishes its value.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at:
<http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7844>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0080

Asset name: Bostock House, Middlewich Road

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369150 366715

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Country house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH10609
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bostock House is a locally listed red brick hall and farmhouse. It is located west of Middlewich, set back and on the south side of the Middlewich Road. The multi-wing hall faces north onto the Bostock Road, with a series of ranges extending to the west and south. The roof is tiled, with decoration to the gables. The substantial chimneys are ornately decorated. The hall dates to the late 19th century and first appears on the 1899 Ordnance Survey Map referred to as Stanthornehill. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is within mature gardens of substantial trees that enclose the buildings to the west and north on to the A54 Chester Road. This is a busy main road and has constant traffic noise at its junction. A formal garden is set out south of the hall with views on to fields used for pasture. Topographically the house is located on sloping land as it drops towards the River Wheelock valley and the outskirts of Middlewich. The land continues to rise to the west up the brow of a hill. The setting, especially to the south where much historic context of farmland on the outskirts of Middlewich is retained, makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as a good example of a 19th century hall built on the outskirts of Middlewich.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Ordnance Survey, 1899, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.
- 2 Vale Royal Borough Council. (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0081

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal, Big Lock and Footbridge

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370147 366826

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal lock

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1229624
HER: DCH3651
NMR n/a

Associated assets

Asset UID Asset name

MA02_0314 Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A canal lock, from the mid 19th century, of blue brick with red sandstone plinths and copings. It has double lock gates, the upper pair of timber, the lower pair replaced in steel. There is an iron footbridge, probably later 19th century with path on cambered iron plates. Blue brick abutments and path ramps. The lock is approximately five metres wide hence its name. It retains the dimensions determined in 1776 when it was intended that Middlewich should be the trans-shipment point between "Mersey flats" and narrowboats. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lock is on the Trent and Mersey Canal on the edge of an urban area of Middlewich. To the south are modern residential streets in northern Middlewich, to the north some of the historic rural setting is retained as the landscape opens to fields. A grassed area is immediately north beyond which lies the course of the River Dane crosses, with an associated water management feature. Beyond this the land opens to mixed-use fields. The setting relative to the canal and rural elements in the north retains the historic context of the asset and contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The lock is a representative example of the canal's support infrastructure.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1229624>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0082

Asset name: Possible Roman industrial site, Bostock

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369200 366900

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Industrial
Inland saltworks

Period(s): Roman

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 824
NMR n/a
Remote sens. ID: MA02_RS023

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| MA02_0322 | Site of Roman Salt Works Near Bostock |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A potential salt or metal working site indicated by the discovery of three lead salt pans found on land in Bostock north east of Bank Farm. On 9 March 1986, three lead salt pans were found on the land of Bank Farm, Bostock with a metal detector. Found in the field bank above a clay cliff on the corner of a bend of the River Dane. The pans were discovered stacked on top of each other with the lowest upturned. The area of the find showed a layer of slag, clinker and charcoal. There was no salt-making debris found and the area is far from known brine springs. The presence of slag and clinker suggests they may have been intended for smelting down. All pans are made of sheet lead. Pans stacked on top of each other with the lowest upturned. A Roman coin has also been found at Bank Farm and the farmer has indicated at a consultation meeting that an area in the south east corner of the field centred on NGR 368745 367560 produced finds during ploughing. [1] The presence of a site was also indicated during remote sensing survey. [2]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as the potential site of Roman period salt-making or metal processing located on the edge of the Dane Valley.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshireservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7672>
- 2 BID HE-005-MA02

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0083

Asset name: Milepost, Bostock Road (East)

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368653 366942

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Milepost

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1139212
HER: DCH2207
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a circular cast iron milepost with ogee-domed top and curved plate, dated 1833. The curved plate reads. NORTHWICH 5 MILES |MIDDLEWICH 1 MILE SANDBACH 6. At the base of the post is a raised oval plaque with date to centre surrounded by the name of the parish in upper case lettering. It was constructed after the road between Middlewich and Winsford was turnpiked between 1753 and 1769 [1].

Setting description:

The milepost's setting is associated with the busy A533 Northwich Road (also known as Bostock Road), the former turnpike road between Northwich and Middlewich. It is located on the south side of the road, 10m east of the junction with Birch Lane, set back from the kerb surrounded by a mature hedgerow which has grown around it. The intermittent noise and proximity of national speed limit traffic forms part of its setting. The milepost retains its historic context associated with the A533 Northwich Road which would have been the original turnpike road between Middlewich and Northwich. The milepost retains its roadside location, which informs on its function and contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as an example of a 19th century road side milepost. Its connection with the turnpiking of roads in the 18th and 19th century contributes to its historic interest. Value is also derived from the survival of its form.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139212>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0084

Asset name: Kinderton Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370861 366953

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Country house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160372
HER: DCH2250
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0087 | Kinderton Hall moated site |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is an early 18th century farmhouse, built in red brick in Flemish bond, with a pitched slate roof. The house is two storeys high with an attic above, and five bays wide with a double depth plan. The half-glazed front door is surrounded by a wide stone ogee moulded doorcase. The door is fronted by a cast iron porch. There is a neat fenestration around this door. Two rear wings complete a "U" shaped plan. The interior has chamfered beams in the kitchen, cased beams and modest cornices in the lounge and dining room, and a dogleg staircase, with turned balusters, from the ground floor to attic. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of Kinderton Hall is within the rural landscape on the north-east edge of Middlewich. It is directly surrounded by the gardens of the hall with high mature trees. There is also a scheduled monument associated with the original medieval moated site. The outskirts of Middlewich have expanded towards the hall in the past 20 years where the B5309 Middlewich Bypass has been constructed which follows the southern and western boundaries of the hall's gardens. Infilling of 20th or 21st century housing estates to the B5309 has resulted in housing imposing further on the southern boundaries of the garden. To the north and east is rural pasture, divided into fields, which slope gently down to the shallow River Dane valley which meanders north and north-east of the hall. The rural historic context of the hall is retained due to its surrounding gardens, relationship with the River Dane and surrounding farmland. Therefore its setting positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as one of the best-preserved examples of an 18th century country house and farmhouse surviving in Cheshire. It has both external and internal

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

architectural features which contribute to its heritage value.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160372>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0085

Asset name: King Street Roman Fort, Harbutt's Field

Designation and grade: Scheduled monument

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370221 366954

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Defence
Fort

Period(s): Roman

References

References: NHLE: 1008460
HER: 1080/1/0
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0154 | King Street Roman Road (Margary route 70a) |
| MA02_0292 | Middlewich Area of Archaeological Potential |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

" The monument includes a Roman fort located on the northern fringe of Middlewich, a town generally identified as the Roman settlement known as Salinae. A Roman fort had been postulated to exist at Salinae since the 18th century but was only positively identified by field work during 1993. No upstanding remains survive but resistivity survey work, which measures the way in which electrical currents pass through the ground and uses this information to provide an insight into the nature of below-ground remains, has confirmed the location of the site and also that extensive remains of the whole fort survive beneath the present ground surface. The details of this have also been confirmed by magnetometer survey, which measures the different magnetic response of buried features, and by aerial photography. The complete plan of the fort has been revealed by this work. It is a roughly square enclosure, measuring approximately 110m by 125m with rounded corners and entrances visible in the middle of all four sides. There is evidence of a structure located within the northern gateway. The enclosure was surrounded by a single rampart and ditch. There are further features outside the rampart and ditch which may represent ancillary features such as the roads leading to the site, and a possible outer ditch on the north side of the fort. A number of internal features have also been identified. The geophysical survey work was followed by limited excavation. This revealed that the ditch survives as a buried feature, as do postholes which relate to the construction of the rampart. Within the interior of the fort, deposits of burnt clay were found along with evidence of the slots in which timber beams used in the foundations of the Roman buildings would have been set. Pottery fragments found indicate that the fort was in use in the late first century AD. Although no upstanding remains of the fort at King Street survive, geophysical survey and limited excavation have established the position and extent of the whole site and confirmed that significant archaeological remains survive beneath the present ground surface. The survival of the entire area and plan of a Roman fort is exceptional for this area of England. It will provide a significant contribution to studies of the early Roman conquest and control

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

of this area." [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the Roman fort is at the northern edges of Middlewich overlooking the Dane Valley and the crossing of the River Dane by the B5309 King Street to the north. These relationships are integral to the setting of the fort which would have acted as a defensive structure controlling the crossing and the adjacent industrial settlement of Salinae. The topography of the fort is flat but gently slopes northwards to the adjacent River Dane valley. King Street Bridge on the B5309 King Street is to the north-east and represents the location of the former crossing. However, there is no direct relationship with this bridge. On the northern and north-western edge of the fort there are trees and agricultural fields across the River Dane. To the west, south and east the fort is now enclosed by housing and industrial estates that form the edge of Middlewich. This would have been the location of the settlement of Salinae, but these remains have been extensively excavated and this element of its context has been lost. It partially retains its historic association with the crossing of the River Dane by the B5309 King Street a former Roman road, therefore its setting makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The scheduled monument derives its value from its archaeological interest as a Roman fort. Roman forts are rare nationally and help understand army strategy and government policy. All Roman forts with surviving archaeological potential are considered nationally important. Survey work has established that buried archaeological remains extend over the whole site. The survival of the entire area and plan of a Roman fort is exceptional for this area of England. This contributes to studies of the early Roman conquest and control of this area.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008460>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0086

Asset name: Croxton Shrunken Village

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369000 367000

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Shrunken village

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 865
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The place name Croxton is first mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. This has been suggested as the site of a shrunken village. A shrunken village is a settlement that shows evidence of earlier buildings that generally became abandoned in the medieval period as a result of a number of factors including the reduction in population caused by the Black Death. The location of the shrunken village of Croxton is unclear. The point on the Historic Environment Record is not correctly positioned and relates to a grid square only. The balance of evidence would suggest that Croxton Shrunken village is located on the eastern bank of the River Dane in proximity to the demolished Croxton Hall. An alternative is to the south in the suburbs of Middlewich around Croxton Lane and Beechfield Drive in an area of land between the River Dane, River Wheelock and River Crocco which has been subsumed by housing estates but has produced medieval finds. [1, 2]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as the remains of a shrunken village probably in the location of Croxton Hall. Shrunken villages are usually associated with manor houses or moated sites and represent the remains of villages that have reduced in size during the medieval or post-medieval periods. The location of Croxton Shrunken Village is uncertain. It may be that the historical evidence for the village is not supported by archaeological remains thus diminishing its value.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Dodgson, J, McN. (1970-2), The Place-Names of Cheshire, Vol. II, pp.236.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7848>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0087

Asset name: Kinderton Hall moated site

Designation and grade: Scheduled monument

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 370813 367017

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Moat

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE: 1012358
HER: 753/1/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

Asset UID Asset name

MA02_0084 Kinderton Hall

MA02_0292 Middlewich Area of Archaeological Potential

MA02_0305 Site of Post-medieval settlement, Kinderton Hall Farm

Description and sources

Full asset description:

"The monument is the moated site of the original Kinderton Hall (MA02_0084). It includes a large area containing a complex system of earthworks that includes two annexes, five fishponds, a garden and prospect mound. The raised grassy island measures c. 47m x 45m. It has an undulating surface with a low raised platform in its western half. A dry shallow moat c. 10m wide x 0.5m deep surrounds the island. To the west and north is a complex area of banks, ditches and platforms through which runs a causeway from the west that gives access to the island's northwest corner. A shallow waterlogged outer moat 4-7m wide x 0.5m deep runs around the eastern and northern sides. North of this outer moat is a grassy annexe measuring up to 120m x 50m with a shallow dry ditch c. 10m wide on its eastern side. A second grassy annexe measuring some 105m x 75m lies east of the moated site and contains low earthworks towards its southern end and at its northwest corner. Further earthworks lie east of this annexe. A waterlogged fishpond measuring up to 65m x 45m lies southwest of the present Kinderton Hall. A linear set of three dry fishponds lie on the monument's western side - the southerly one measures c. 45m x 20m x 0.9m deep, the central one measures c. 45m x 25m x 0.9m deep, and the northerly one measures c. 55m x 18m x 0.9m deep. A dry fishpond some 69m x 20m x 1.5m deep lies at the northern end of the annexe north of the moated site and is connected to the northerly end of the linear set of fishponds by a dry channel c. 70m long x 9m wide x 0.5m deep. A prospect mound c. 30m dia. x 3.5m high lies close to the monument's southwest corner immediately east of the southerly of the linear set of fishponds. A large grassy area to the west of Kinderton Hall and lying south of the moated site contains a series of earthworks comprising low banks, ditches and enclosures that originally formed a garden. Kinderton was mentioned in the Domesday Book when a castle existed here. It was later succeeded by a moated hall that was occupied by the Venables family who held

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

the Barony of Kinderton throughout the medieval period. The hall was demolished during the late 19th century but its foundations are known to survive beneath the modern ground surface. The present Kinderton Hall is an early 18th century farmhouse and a Listed Building Grade II*. It lies some 100m southeast of the moated site. Kinderton Hall, its outbuildings, farmyard, driveways, paths, all service pipes, field boundaries, gateposts, telegraph poles, a timber shed and a large brick trough are all excluded from the scheduling but the ground beneath all these features is included. The monument is a rare and unusual example of a well preserved medieval moated site accompanied by an extensive and complex series of earthworks. The complexity of these remains demonstrates well the diversity which may be exhibited by this monument class. Most of the monument is unencumbered by modern development and the site will possess considerable remains of the medieval Kinderton Hall and also the castle known to have occupied the area prior to construction of the moated site. Additionally organic material will be preserved in the waterlogged fishpond and outer moat." [1]

Setting description:

The archaeological remains of Kinderton Hall moated site are set within the gardens of the later Grade II* listed Kinderton Hall (MA02_0084) and its outbuildings. Its setting is within the rural landscape on the north-east edge of Middlewich. The outskirts of Middlewich have expanded towards the hall in the past 20 years, the B5309 Middlewich Bypass has been constructed which follows the southern and western boundaries of the hall's gardens. Infilling of 20th or 21st century housing estates to the B5309 has resulted in housing imposing further on the southern boundaries of the garden. To the north and east are agricultural fields that slope gently down to the shallow River Dane valley which meanders north and north-east of the hall. The historic context of the scheduled monument survives on its northern and western boundary where it retains a relationship with the fields for pasture and the River Dane Valley that would have surrounded the moated site in the medieval period. This context has been lost to the east and south. Despite this, the setting contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as a rare surviving good example of a moated site. This is an unusual example of a well-preserved medieval moated site accompanied by an extensive and complex series of earthworks. The complexity of these remains demonstrates well the diversity which may be exhibited by this monument class. Most of the monument is unencumbered by modern development. The site will possess archaeological remains of the medieval Kinderton Hall and the castle known to have occupied the area prior to construction of the moated site. Additionally, organic material will be preserved in the waterlogged fishpond and outer moat.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1012358>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0088

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal, Canal Milepost at NGR 6980 6700

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305-R1

National Grid Reference: 369822 367039

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal milepost

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330029
HER: DCH3786
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A cast iron canal milepost dated to 1819. It has a tapered circular stem inscribed 'R&D STONE 1819' on a raised shield; the curved plate is inscribed 'SHARDLOW 76 MILES: PRESTON BROOK 16 MILES'. It has a domed cap. All the lettering is in Roman capitals. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the milepost is on the bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal on the northern edges of urban Middlewich. It retains its historic context associated with the canal, this makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The milepost represents an example of canal way markers.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330029>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0089

Asset name: Greenheys Farm

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368485 367075

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH10608
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a locally listed farmhouse, located north of the A533 Northwich Road. It is brick built with timber framed jettied gables painted in black and white.

At the front is a brick lintel and a half-timbered porch. The original windows have been replaced with modern UPVC windows which detract from the aesthetic value of the asset. The 1874 Ordnance Survey map shows the farmhouse in its current plan [1].

An earlier farmhouse is shown in the same location on the Stanthorne tithe map, the remains of this earlier farmhouse may still be present and could have been incorporated into the current house [2].

The farmhouse was built on land belonging to James France France, of the Bostock Estate. This indicates that it was constructed as a home farm for the Estate. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is on a rise of land north of the A533 Northwich Road. The farmhouse has a garden to the front and red brick farm buildings in poor condition to the rear. The setting also includes two linear ranges of barns to the north-east of the farmhouse.

The 1899 Ordnance Survey map shows that the current complex of red brick barns has been completed. This includes four red brick barns, north-west of the farmhouse, a further barn north-east of the farmhouse, and the two barns visible on the earlier map set around a central farmyard.

The farm is set in arable fields and pasture between Middlewich and Winsford. These settlements are only evident in distant views out from the asset across the arable land of the large Winsford Industrial Estate to the south-west.

The setting retains its historic context of farmland and makes a positive contribution to its value.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as a representative example of 19th century farmhouses in mid Cheshire. Its use of red brick and half-timbered decoration on the first floor is typical of the local vernacular style for rural farmhouses. It also derives value from historical interest due to its association to the Bostock Estate. The potential remains of an earlier farmstead have archaeological interest.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council. (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.
- 2 Stanthorne Tithe Map and Award, available online at: <https://maps.cheshireeast.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0090

Asset name: Wharton Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 366136 367090

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Country house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1139190
HER: DCH2185
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Wharton Hall is a mid 18th century house which is now a residential home. It is in Winsford in the suburb of Wharton. It has 19th and 20th century alterations. It is built in rendered brick with slate gabled-end roofs. It is three storeys high and three bays wide to the front, with a double depth plan with roughly central hall. The entrance doorway has a six-panel door under a fanlight and three-quarter columns either side. The windows are decorated above with open ironwork railings. A 19th century extension is recessed to the left and a long 1940s extension is recessed to right, both with slate roofs. The interior includes a dog-leg staircase which rises full height of house. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of Wharton Hall is a suburban housing estate in the village of Wharton on the west side of the town of Winsford. This setting comprises several modern houses that form the estate of Linton Court and, to the west, large factories associated with an industrial estate. The historic context of the hall, which would have been rural when built, has entirely been lost by the surrounding suburban houses and industrial estate. Therefore its setting makes a negative contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of an 18th century rural hall.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139190>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0091

Asset name: Site of a Flint Crushing Mill, Byley

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369330 367190

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Industrial
Flint mill

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 4423
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A flint crushing mill is marked on the 1877 Ordnance Survey map [1]. It probably crushed flint for the pottery industry and would have been powered by water from the River Dane. There is a mill race to the north that connects to the River Dane [2]. It is likely crushed flint would have been exported for the pottery industry along the adjacent Trent and Mersey Canal to the potteries in Staffordshire.

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as a site of local industrial production. The connection with the Trent and Mersey Canal which would have been utilised for the transport of the crushed flint to the Staffordshire Potteries contributes to the value of the asset.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Ordnance Survey (1877), Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch to 1 mile - Cheshire.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH10807>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0092

Asset name: Timbers in the River Dane, Stanthorne Wood

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 369095 367200

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Bridge

Period(s): Undated,
Roman,
Early medieval,
Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Timbers were exposed in 2005 due to erosion of the south-western bank of the River Dane. This exposed a short row of nine stakes at the base of a very steep cliff on the south-west bank of the River Dane. The stakes were buried under a depth of alluvium. Lodged between the stakes was a sizeable wooden plank and a large worked timber that was on a small sand bar. Access to the stakes proved difficult due to the steep nature of the cliff and proximity water. The plank was removed and retained for sampling. [1]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset is derived from its archaeological interest as potential remains of historic timbers. The date of the timbers are unknown but are similar to timbers that have been found adjacent to the scheduled monument Roman Fort at Harbutt's Field King Street.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Laguard, J.G.A. and Drew, I.B. 2005 Stanthorne Wood: Investigation of Timbers in the River Dane, Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, Manchester Metropolitan University

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0093

Asset name: Bank Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368215 367271

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160732
HER: DCH2270
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The early 19th century farmhouse is located north of the A533 Northwich Road. The two-storey high, three-bay farmhouse is constructed in red brick in English Garden Wall bond with ashlar dressings and a pitched slate roof. The south facing entrance has a central door with flat-topped porch supported on columns in front and an entablature with decorative band to frieze. Moulded surround to door which is half-glazed with a fanlight over. To either side are sash windows with stone sills and wedge lintels, with three similar windows to first floor. There is a wing to the rear and a further, low farm building to one side. It is surrounded by a small garden and there a series of 19th century red brick farm buildings in a courtyard to the north. [1] The farm and farmland formerly belonged to James France of the Bostock Estate in the 19th century. This indicates that it was constructed as a home farm for the Estate.

Setting description:

The farmhouse is set in a small private garden which opens onto the A533 Northwich Road to the south-east, to the north-west is a courtyard of farm buildings. Surrounding this are fields laid to pasture interspersed with copses and plantations of woodland. There is frequent traffic noise from the adjacent busy A533 Northwich Road which dominates the experience of the asset. The principal view from the entrance is south-west across the fields with copses of trees, with the land falling gently away. The absence of hedges south of the road means there is little screening of the property and in the distance there are views of Winsford Industrial Estate through trees to south-west. The presence of the industrial estate detracts from these views. The land falls away gently to the north over fields and the wooded copses on the edge of the Bostock Hall Estate towards the River Dane Valley. However, the current farm buildings screen the farmhouse to the north. The farm buildings, garden, orchard and the surrounding farmland provides the historic context of the working farm. The setting of the farmhouse in a farmyard within fields for pasture makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as a representative example of rural domestic architecture associated with the expansion of dairy farming in mid Cheshire. It also derives value from historical interest due to its association to the Bostock Estate.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160732>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0094

Asset name: Bostock Hall Moated Site

Designation and grade: Scheduled monument

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 367787 367340

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Moat

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE: 1012357
HER: 795
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

"The monument is the medieval moated site of Bostock Hall. The site lies in woodland and includes a raised rectangular island measuring c. 40m x 37m. Surrounding the island is a waterlogged moat 9.3m wide x 1.8m deep that has a dry outlet channel 6m wide x 1.5m deep issuing from its southwestern corner. Access to the island is by a low causeway c. 5m wide on the eastern arm close to the north-eastern corner. Bostock Hall was a medieval timber building demolished in 1803 and superseded by a nearby farmhouse. All field boundaries are excluded from the scheduling but the ground beneath them is included. Despite the monument's woodland location the site survives well. Its earthworks are well preserved and the site remains a good example of a small medieval moated site. Evidence of the medieval Bostock Hall will be preserved on the island and organic material will be preserved in the waterlogged moat." [1]

Setting description:

The monument is the medieval moated site of Bostock Hall which lies in woodland south of the A533 Northwich Road. Its setting is the surrounding landscape of fields laid to pasture divided by hedgerows, and intermittent copses of deciduous woodland that form the southern extents of the Bostock Hall Estate and Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113). These elements of the setting are associated with its historic rural context of farmland. However, the Winsford Industrial Estate located 400m south-west of the moated site has imposed on this historic rural landscape. The moated site only partially retains its historic rural context as the farmland has changed in character since the medieval period, but its setting contributes positively to its value due to the surviving rural character.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as a rare survival of a good condition moated site. It allows an understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. It is likely to provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains. Despite the monument's woodland location, the site survives well as earthworks and remains a good example of a small medieval moated site. Evidence of the medieval Bostock Hall will be preserved on the island and organic material will be preserved in the waterlogged moat.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160732>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0095

Asset name: Old Hall Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 368050 367421

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1310589
HER: DCH2547
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Old Hall Farmhouse is an early-to-mid 19th century, three bay, two storey building, with an attic above. It is built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond with a pitched slate roof. It fronts onto the A533 Northwich Road to the south. The central doorway has a pillared porch and is flanked by sash windows either side with three windows on the first floor completing the symmetrical fenestration. A brick wing has been added to the north. To the east is a U-shaped courtyard of farm buildings in poor condition. One barn contains a timber framed gabled end facing the road. The farm buildings are in somewhat poor condition. The track entrance is flanked by a set of gate piers with curved ball finials. [1] The farmhouse was built on land belonging to James France France, of the Bostock Estate. This indicates that it was constructed as a home farm for the Estate.

Setting description:

The farmhouse is set back from the busy A533 Northwich Road within a private garden which comprises the former farmyard. To the east is a long U-shaped range of former farm buildings which encloses this space. It is surrounded by pasture divided by hedgerows, and woodland copses which form part of its historic context as a working farm. The farm, however, appears to have ceased working and the farm buildings are not utilised. The farmhouse faces south where it has views from the front entrance, beyond Northwich Road, over the existing farmland, copses of trees, and singular trees indicative of past field boundaries. In the distance the Winsford Industrial Estate detract from these views. The high hedges visually screen the busy A533 Northwich Road from the ground floor. The continual high-speed traffic is still audible at the front entrance. The traditional line of the adjacent A533 Northwich Road would have formed part of this setting, however the frequent traffic noise erodes the historic context of the farm. To the east and north-east of the farmhouse are red brick ranges of 19th century farm buildings which provide further enclosure. Beyond this are fields laid to pasture, high hedgerows and mature woodland surrounding the Bostock Hall Estate as the

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

land falls away to the north-east towards the Dane Valley. The farmhouse retains much of its historic context associated with the farm buildings and surrounding farmland although this is diminished by the busy adjacent A533 Northwich Road. Its setting is farmland which makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset as it is in keeping with its historical context.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a good example of vernacular rural architecture. It also derives value from historical interest due to its association to the Bostock Estate.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1310589>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0096

Asset name: Site of Croxton Hall and Manor

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 369550 367550

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Hall house

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 2403
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The site of a former house, Croxton Manor. Croxton Manor is likely to relate to the demolished Croxton Hall shown on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map south of the current Croxton Hall Farm [1]. The place name Croxton is first mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086. At this time the township of Croxton was held with Newton and Nether Tabley by Gozelin, one of the minor Norman grantees at the time of the Domesday survey, 1086. The direct male line of the Croxtons terminated in the reign of Henry V and the manor passed to the Mainwaring family. It is possible the demolished hall was first built at this time or alternatively was built in the post-medieval period. The 19th century historian Ormerod describes the hall as a brick building, standing on a slight elevation above the River Dane, with only part of it remaining. It was finished with stone work at the angles, had tall groups of chimneys and bay windows and was then a farmhouse. [2]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest. The remains of Croxton Hall and the associated manor would have been an important medieval site.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshireservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8110>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0097

Asset name: South Lodge, Railings, Gates and Gate Piers

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367780 367608

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lodge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138454
HER: DCH2043
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

South Lodge is the Gamekeepers house and former Gate Lodge of Bostock Hall located at the southern end of the Bostock Hall Estate, directly north of the A533 Northwich Road. It was built in c. 1755 with later additions and alterations of c. 1870.

The two-storey building is red brick built with a jettied timber-framed first floor with rendered infill and a plain tile roof, typical of the estate style associated with Bostock Hall. Originally it had a rectangular block plan with a canted bay window to one side, but a later wing was added to the north-west in c. 1870 when the Lodge was turned into a game keepers house.

The entrance front to the south, has a central door with a jettied projecting central gabled bay forming a porch over the doorway. Adjoining the house and projecting south eastwards are two rows of iron railings with spear heads which connect with a gate screen of wrought iron railings.

The Art Nouveau influenced double gates are between two square rusticated ashlar gate piers with pyramidal caps and iron finials above these. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of South Lodge is mature deciduous woodland at the southern entrance of the Bostock Hall Estate, adjacent to the busy A533 Northwich Road. The adjacent road is busy and imposes on the lodge with frequent traffic noise, the relationship between the lodge and the route of the road is historic. Despite the road noise it retains a sense of seclusion within the woodland, when there are no passing cars. Through the gates there are views northward of Bostock Hall faintly visible through woodland and the tree dotted parkland.

To the south is a distinct woodland band that screens the lodge from view of the farmland to the south and creates an enclosed setting. It retains its historic context as the southern entrance to the Bostock Hall estate, and makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a lodge associated with the designed landscape and country residence of Bostock Hall.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138454>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0098

Asset name: Ravenscroft Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-302b

National Grid Reference: 370329 367617

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Mansion house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160339
HER: DCH2247
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Ravenscroft Hall is a mansion that has now been divided into two dwellings. It was built in 1837 as marked on the gable pediment with later additions in 1877. The mansion is two-storeys high, with five bays at the north facing front, a five-bay wing to the north-east, and a further five-bay wing to the south-west return (the garden front). It is built in roughcast and yellow brickwork with stone dressing and a hipped slate roof. The central oak three-quarter glazed door is surrounded by a flat roofed porch supported by two unfluted Ionic columns and two pilasters. The fenestration is of large, recessed sash windows with stone sills. The north-east wing is slightly set back with a central Italianate bell tower, mainly of yellow brick, rising to three storeys. The south-west elevation has the central bay set forward. This is surmounted by a gable pediment with floral and scroll decorations and the date of 1837. The interior includes an entrance hall with stone staircase, a former ball room, drawing room, dining and billiard rooms with notable interior decoration. At the entrance on the B5039 King Street is the 19th century non-designated Ravenscroft Lodge that was the original lodge house to the Ravenscroft Hall Estate. The mansion continues to be associated with the working Ravenscroft Hall Farm to the north-east. This was the Home Farm of Ravenscroft Hall. The farmhouse and ranges of buildings are contemporary 19th century in date but later large 20th century barns have been built further to the north-west. Together the assets form a cohesive group of which Ravenscroft Hall was the central building. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the mansion is a group of buildings, formal gardens and tennis courts to the east of the B5039 King Street. These buildings include Ravenscroft Lodge and Ravenscroft Hall Farm but also later 20th century farm buildings. The gardens are screened from the road to the west by a broad band of deciduous woodland and lines of poplars along the formal driveway. Beyond this are pasture and arable fields surrounded by hedgerows to the north and east, and to the south as the land falls away to the shallow River

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Dane Valley. Key views are to the south-east towards Kinderton Hall, and of the northern entrance façade where a thin line of trees restricts views between the house and the fields to the north. The setting of the asset makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset as it retains the historic context of the lodge and farmhouse and key views looking south towards Kinderton Hall.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a formal mansion built in the 19th century. Its architectural interest includes both external and internal architectural features.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160339>.
- 2 Pevsner, N, Hubbard, E. (1971), The Buildings of England: Cheshire.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0099

Asset name: Croxton Hall Farm, Croxton Lane

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 369535 367635

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH9956
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A large two-storey red brick farmhouse, with black and white timber upper in the local vernacular style typical of the 19th century. It has a classical four-columned portico entrance to the principal western façade. This entrance has stone steps which lead to an iron door (probably not an original feature). The door head is a flat head arch in gauged brick. [1] In plan it has a main front range with two wings to the rear. The roof is pitched and there are five chimney stacks. To the south-west in a separate complex are two 19th century ranges of red brick, single and two-storey barns. There is timber-framed detailing to the gables of the latter of these barns. The original Croxton Hall has been demolished but appears south of the farm complex on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map. [2]

Setting description:

The farmhouse is set in fields laid to pasture west of the A530 Croxton Lane. The setting of the farmhouse is associated with the working farm of 19th and 20th century buildings to the south. The farmhouse sits in a prominent position and looks west over the landscape of fields within the shallow River Dane Valley in the direction of the Trent and Mersey Canal. The farmhouse is prominent within the surrounding landscape, however its immediate setting within the farmyard makes a greater contribution to its value than the more distant farmland. Its setting associated to the working farm and fields provides historic context and makes a positive contribution to value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as a good example of the 19th century farmhouse, utilising the local vernacular style of mid Cheshire. This was red brick construction with timber framing applied to the first floor.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0100

Asset name: Milepost, Bostock Road (West)

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367398 367999

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Milepost

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330179
HER: DCH2643
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A cast iron milepost dated to c.1833.. It is a circular post with ogee-shaped domed top and curved plate. The plate reads 'MIDDLEWICH 2 MILES SANDBACH 7 | NORTHWICH 4 MILES'. [1]

Setting description:

The milepost is set on the south side of the busy A533 Northwich Road (also known as Bostock Road) on the edge of the current verge. This was its historic context and the road forms an integral part of its setting. The audible noise of regular high-speed traffic forms part of this setting. Its roadside setting informs its function and makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical interest associated with the A533 Northwich Road. The asset would originally have denoted the distances to local destinations and formed part of 18th and 19th century turnpiking of the roads. It is a rare example of the survival of one of these monuments.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330179>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0101

Asset name: 6 and 8 Middlewich Road (actually Bostock Road)

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367370 368015

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Semi detached house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH9923
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Nos. 6 and 8, Middlewich Road (actually Bostock Road) are semi-detached, two-storey, red brick cottages which date to the late 19th century. On the first floor they adopt the applied timber-framed style of a building that is typical of late 19th century development of the buildings associated with the Bostock Estate. [1]

Setting description:

The cottages are within their mature gardens which are set back from the south side of the A533 Northwich Road. To the rear of the cottages is mature woodland that forms part of the Bostock Estate's land holding south of the road and the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113). The garden has a rural atmosphere but this is disturbed by noise from the adjacent A533 Northwich Road which sees frequent high speed traffic. Despite this, the setting contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as a good example of late post-medieval, estate cottages in mid Cheshire. It is one of several buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area associated with Bostock Hall Estate that adopt the local vernacular style of red brick and half-timbered decoration.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0102

Asset name: Dairyhouse Farm, Croxton Lane

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 369340 368050

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH9955
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Dairyhouse Farm is a locally listed, late 19th century farmhouse with associated farm buildings. The farmhouse is first shown on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map and appears that the farmhouse was built at this time and the farm buildings were remodelled at this time. The farm buildings include an L-shape plan two-storey half-timbered barn [1]. The 1875 Ordnance Survey map shows this farm building and it appears to be the only building that survived the late 19th century remodelling [2].

Setting description:

The farmhouse is surrounded by mature trees that line its garden and screen it from the busy A530 Croxton Lane which lies to the west. It is set on prominent land above the shallow River Dane valley. The setting also includes the working 19th and 20th century farm buildings, which are located immediately to the north and the surrounding arable farmland which is associated with the historic context of the working farm. Its setting in the context of a working farm makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as an example of the 19th century farmhouses built in the local vernacular style of red brick and half-timbered decoration typical of mid Cheshire.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0103

Asset name: Gate Piers, Gates and Screen about 70 metres south-west of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367654 368183

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Monument
Gateway

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330203
HER: DCH2653
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The gate piers, gates and screen about 70 metres south-west of Bostock Hall are located within the parkland surrounding the hall. They consist of four-square ashlar piers with wrought iron railings and gates built in c. 1875. Each pier is capped by a round urn with a wineglass stem, lion masks to the body and a cover with a ball finial. The lateral screens above stone footing have twisted uprights. The central gates have richly floral motifs to iron work. [1]

Setting description:

The gate piers, gates and screen are part of a complex of buildings associated with the contemporary Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). The setting of the structures is within parkland of copses, lakes and fields laid to pasture which comprise the designed landscape around Bostock Hall. They are located south of the hall on what would have been the original southern entrance driveway to the hall from the South Lodge. This continues to be faintly visible on aerial images and views that connect South Lodge to the hall, gate piers, gates and screen. This setting makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural interest in its design and from historic interest as the former gate opening to Bostock Hall. It has associated group value with the Grade II* listed Bostock Hall.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330203>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0104

Asset name: Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367647 368250

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Great house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138416
HER: DCH2004
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0105 | Boat House c. 80 metres west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0106 | Walls of walled garden to north-west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0107 | Water Tower c. 20 metres west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0108 | Stable Building and Cottage c. 20 metres north-west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0109 | Former Stable Building c. 30m north of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0110 | Farm building with Spire c. 80 metres north of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0111 | Middle Lodge, Middlewich Road |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bostock Hall is a country house built in c. 1775. It was probably designed by Samuel Wyatt with additions and alterations in c. 1850 and 1875. Wyatt was known as a specialist in country houses, model farms and subsidiary buildings.

The three-storey building, with basement below was built in red Flemish bond brick with ashlar dressings and a slate roof with lead flashings. Elements of Wyatt's design of c. 1775 survive but most of the facade was remodelled in c. 1850.

The south-east facade has five bays symmetrically disposed. The central bay of c. 1850 has an ashlar porch with pilasters to either side of a round arch. The facade to the south-west and garden has three bays symmetrically disposed and altered in c. 1850 at which time the lateral bay windows were added and the central bay given its ashlar enrichments.

To the north-west is the service wing which was heavily remodelled c. 1875. This wing connects at the far left to the base of the Water Tower.

The interior has several important architectural features and includes elements of Wyatt's c. 1775 design. It was remodelled in 1850 with the entrance lobby, and open well staircase and several ground floor rooms altered and again in 1875 when the staircase hall was altered. The service wing of 1875 has a ball room. [1]

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

[2]

Setting description:

The setting of Bostock Hall retains much of its historic context, including its surrounding gardens, parkland, farmland and associated buildings. These form a group within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113), with the hall to the eastern side of this. The Bostock Hall group is separated from the rest of the conservation area by thick woodland which borders the parkland to the west. This woodland filters the parkland from the visual presence of traffic on the busy A533 Northwich Road and Bostock Road, which minimises its intrusion on the setting of the hall. The sound of wind in the trees and waterfowl on the large lake contributes to the rural parkland atmosphere, traffic noise is not dominant near Bostock Hall. This lake creates an important space with reflections and movement from the water surfaces and its wildlife contributing to the setting of the hall. The extensive lawns between the hall and the lake, whilst broken by areas of tree and shrub planting, play an important part in establishing the setting of the hall's main south-west elevation and service wing. The setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the heritage asset.

Asset value assessment:

Bostock Hall derives its value from its historical and architectural interest as one of the principal large country residential houses in mid Cheshire. It is a good example of an 18th century country house and associated estate. It has architectural interest due to the quality of its design and high level of details.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138416>.
- 2 Pevsner, N, Hubbard, E. (1971), The Buildings of England: Cheshire.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0105

Asset name: Boat House c. 80 metres west of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-01-306
National Grid Reference: 367526 368272

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Gardens, parks and urban spaces
Boat house
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138417
HER: DCH200
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The two-storey boathouse dates to c. 1870. It is built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond with ashlar dressings and a plain tile roof. The lake front has a round headed boat arch. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the boathouse is on the edge of the lake associated with parkland around Bostock Hall and is part of the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113). The parkland is a mixture of fields for pasture and clumps of trees adjacent to the lake on the eastern side. On the western side is deciduous woodland lining the lake. It is associated with a group of related 19th century buildings that form part of the Bostock Hall Estate. The setting of the boathouse continues to be associated with these buildings including Bostock Hall, the Water Tower c. 20m west of Bostock Hall, Stable Buildings c. 20m north-west of Bostock Hall and the Walls of the Walled Garden. The walled garden has been infilled with later residential buildings. The setting makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as an example of a boat house for pleasure in a country estate. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138417>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0106

Asset name: Walls of walled garden to north-west of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367529 368296

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Gardens, parks and urban spaces
Walled garden

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330204
HER: 7892
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Walls of walled garden to north-west of Bostock Hall date to the 18th century with 19th and 20th century alterations. They are built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond rendered in places. The rectangular enclosure walls are c. 3-4m in height, with ashlar and cement blocks as coping. The walls are ashlar to their outer lower faces save for the north-western wall. The north-western wall was rebuilt in late 19th century with a range of outhouses to the outer face and a central gateway. The central gateways to other three sides have substantial 20th century square brick piers capped by reset stone balls. The interior gardens have been largely infilled with a housing development in the late 20th century. In 1996 the gardens were excavated and shown to have two phases the earliest dating to the 18th century and the later phase to the late 19th to early 20th centuries [1]. The garden, as depicted on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map comprised a geometric pattern of beds and four paths converging on a central fountain [2].

Setting description:

The setting of the walled garden is in parkland around Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and is part of the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113). The exterior of the walled garden retains a relationship with Bostock Hall, the 19th century buildings and parkland that form part of the Bostock Hall Estate. This creates a setting of a designed landscape of pasture, trees and views across the lake. However, the space that formed the interior of the walled garden has been so substantially reduced that it has effectively been lost. It now contains several domestic dwellings that have removed the walls from their historic context. Despite this, the setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as a surviving example of a 19th century walled garden in a country estate. Its value has been diminished by the removal of the internal gardens and replacement with a group of late 20th century houses. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330204>.
- 2 Ordnance Survey, 1875, County Series First Edition, 1: 10,560.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0107

Asset name: Water Tower c. 20 metres west of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367587 368301

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Water supply and drainage
Water tower

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138418
HER: 7892
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Water tower is a square tower of three stages dating to c. 1850 and altered in c. 1875. It is built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond on the lower stage, Ruabon brick on the second stage and stone dressings and a shingle and lead roof on the upper stage. There is a splay footed octagonal spire above with short ridge. It immediately adjoins the service wing of c. 1875 of the Grade II* listed Bostock Hall and the Grade II listed stable buildings and cottage. [1]

Setting description:

The water tower is set in the historic estate of Bostock Hall, including the hall itself, associated 19th century auxiliary buildings, parkland, woods, and the lake. The water tower is one of several buildings that have been converted to housing in the 20th century, located north and north-west of the hall. As such its setting retains much of its historic context but some has been lost by the change in use of the former estate. The setting of the water tower retains its historic context associated with Bostock Hall and grounds and contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as an example of a water tower associated with a country house and estate. The examples are particularly ornate and have some architectural pretension for a group of otherwise functional buildings. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138418>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0108

Asset name: Stable Building and Cottage c. 20 metres north-west of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367598 368319

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Stablehands lodgings

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138419
HER: 7892
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A single storey stable building and two-storey cottage adapted c. 1755 with additions c. 1850. The buildings were built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond with stone dressings. The entrance front faces north-east and has a doorway with the stable to the south-west. The cottage is north-west of the doorway and has two bays with sash windows. A slightly recessed wing extends further to the north-west. The cottage adjoins the Grade II listed Water Tower and forms part of the Grade II* listed Bostock Hall complex. The buildings have largely been converted to residential buildings in the 20th century. [1]

Setting description:

One of a series of listed buildings set within a complex of buildings associated with the contemporary Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). The setting of the buildings is within the parkland of copses, lakes and fields for pasture which comprises the designed landscape around Bostock Hall. The area immediately to the north-east has been redeveloped including several new houses in a similar style to the historic buildings. This has partially removed the historic context of parkland. The setting contributes positively to heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as a good example of a farmhouse and stable in a country estate. The farmhouse is one of the earlier buildings on the estate and represents the earliest elements of the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). It has associative value with the hall and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138419>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0109

Asset name: Former Stable Building c. 30m north of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367641 368347

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Stable

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330205
HER: 7892
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A former stable block that has been converted to residential accommodation in the late 20th century. It dates to c. 1755 with late 19th century alterations. It was built in red brick in Flemish bond with ashlar dressings and a hipped tile roof. In plan it has a central one and a half storey wing, with single story wings either side. The south-west facing entrance front has a stone plinth, and seven bays symmetrically disposed. The central three bays form the central wing. There are stone quoins to the corners and to the sides of a central archway which has a Diocletian window to the round headed arch. To either side are sash windows in each bay. There is a stone band with porthole windows and a circular clock face in gable. To the ridge is a late 19th century octagonal spire with and a weather vane to summit. To either side are single storey blocks with carriage archways now containing brick walling to the lower part of the opening with inserted casement windows above. The block is set slightly apart from Bostock Hall and is one of several 19th century auxiliary buildings and farm buildings that have been converted to housing in the 20th century, located north and north-west of the hall. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the former stable buildings is within a complex of buildings associated with the Grade II* listed Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). Further late 20th century buildings have been added in proximity to the hall to create a residential complex. As such its setting retains much of its historic context but some has been lost by the change in use of the former estate. The buildings overall are set within the parkland of copses, lakes and pasture of the designed landscape around Bostock Hall. The setting of the asset contributes positively to its value.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as an example of a series of stables in a country estate. The examples are particularly ornate and have some architectural pretension for a group of otherwise functional buildings. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330205>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0110

Asset name: Farm building with Spire c. 80 metres north of Bostock Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367622 368398

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farm building

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138420
HER: 7892
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The mid to late 18th century farm building is built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond with ashlar dressings and a pitched roof. The front entrance has 13 bays symmetrically disposed. There are pigeon loft entrances in the end gables. To the centre of the ridge is a louvred bell cote with a shingle roof, louvred lower stage and lead finial to summit. The ranges to either side of the three central bays would appear, from the brickwork, to have formerly been open at first floor level forming a hay barn, as is the case at the rear. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the farm buildings is a complex of buildings associated with the contemporaneous Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). The farm building is one of several 19th century auxiliary buildings and farm buildings that have been converted to housing in the 20th century, located north and north-west of the hall. As such its setting retains much of its historic context but some has been lost by the change in use of the former estate. The buildings overall are set within the parkland of copses, lakes and pasture of the designed landscape around Bostock Hall. The setting of the building contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as an example of farm buildings in a country estate. The examples are particularly ornate and have some architectural pretension for a group of otherwise functional buildings. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138420>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0111

Asset name: Middle Lodge, Middlewich Road

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367390 368410

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lodge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH9943
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Middle Lodge is a two-storey red brick lodge, that is built in the cottage style rather than a formal building. It is formed of a main block with a wing that forms an L-shaped plan. A motif is visible on the gable 'VERDUS SELLER VERDUS'. The original west entrance to Bostock Hall runs to south. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lodge is within its garden, which is partially enclosed by a red brick garden wall and mature trees. To the east partial views of the hall down the main entrance are largely restricted by mature surrounding trees. To the west across the road are small enclosed fields for pasture that form part of the Bostock Hall Estate. There is frequent noise of traffic at speed going past on the Bostock Road which disrupts the otherwise quiet rural setting, which includes the sounds of birds and wind in the trees. Overall the lodge retains much of its historic character associated with the estate of Bostock Hall. The setting contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as a good example of a lodge house for a country estate. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0112

Asset name: Engine House

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367592 368413

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Stable

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1330206
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Originally this was an 18th century stable building but is now an engine house. It is two stories high and square in plan. It was built in red English Garden Wall bond with stucco dressings. It has a hipped slate roof topped by a timber octagonal domed cupola. It has plain walls to the ground floor with later added 19th century outshuts adjoining to all sides. There is a basket arch gateway to the western side. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the engine house is within a complex of buildings associated with the contemporary Bostock Hall (MA02_0104). The buildings are set within the parkland of copses, lakes and fields for pasture which comprises the designed landscape around Bostock Hall. Its parkland setting relative to these assets, despite some intrusion from traffic noise, relates to its former function as stables and makes a positive contribution to the asset's value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as a good example of a farm building for a country estate. The example is particularly ornate and has some architectural pretension for an otherwise functional building. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at:

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1330206>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0113

Asset name: Bostock Conservation Area

Designation and grade: Conservation area

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367500 368500

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Gardens, parks and urban spaces
Country park

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 093
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0097 | South Lodge, Railings, Gates and Gate Piers |
| MA02_0103 | Gate Piers, Gates and Screen about 70 metres south-west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0104 | Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0105 | Boat House c. 80 metres west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0106 | Walls of walled garden to north-west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0107 | Water Tower c. 20 metres west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0108 | Stable Building and Cottage c. 20 metres north-west of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0109 | Former Stable Building c. 30m north of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0110 | Farm building with Spire c. 80 metres north of Bostock Hall |
| MA02_0111 | Middle Lodge, Middlewich Road |
| MA02_0112 | Engine House |
| MA02_0115 | North Lodge |
| MA02_0116 | The Smithy |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Bostock Conservation Area is a large conservation area which has two distinct parts, joined along a transport corridor. These are the landscaped parkland around Bostock Hall north of the A533 Northwich Road and the village of Bostock Green to the north west. The character of the conservation area is derived from a collective of associated buildings including the country house, estate farm, lodges, parkland, farmland, lodges and the associated village. The conservation area is therefore a well-preserved, typical example of an 18th and 19th century Cheshire country estate. The Grade II* listed Bostock Hall was built in 1775 for Manchester businessman William Tomkinson. It includes within its grounds seven further Grade II listed buildings including the boathouse, the walled garden, a water tower, stable building and cottage,

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

former stable building, farm building with spire, and engine house. A period of remodelling of the landscape followed the construction of the hall in 1775 including the expansion of existing woodland to form copses with fields laid to pasture between. Modern development is included in the Bostock Hall Estate, however this is largely contained within the tall garden walls and to the north and east of the hall and does not dominate the hall and its grounds. Most of the buildings in the conservation area have a uniformity of style associated with the expansion of the estate in the mid-19th century. They use red brick throughout in the vernacular Cheshire style, but with decorative black and white timber framing on the first floor and gables. There are low key 'Arts and Crafts' influences elsewhere on the estates. The late 18th century village of Bostock Green was entirely remodelled in the period 1850 to 1875 in the 'Estate' style of red brick buildings with timber framed detailing. The former estate village accompanying Bostock Hall has a cohesive style. The buildings are of brick with timber-framed dormer gables surmounted by wooden finials. The local pub holds a similar design and has an arts and crafts influence. There are a series of larger buildings with a similar design but a jettied central bay. A large village green sits central in the village with a central timber gazebo. The conservation area extends to include the lake and surrounding grounds and woodland. Included in this are the Grade II listed South Lodge, Railings, Gates and Gate piers; Grade II listed North Lodge; and the non-designated Middle Lodge. A milepost at SJ 67398 67999 on the Middlewich Road is also in the conservation area. Several properties on the Middlewich Road including Home Farm; 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 Middlewich Road and a well in front of 14 and 16 Middlewich Road are all non-designated heritage assets. A separate focus of settlement exists around Bostock Green, an earlier medieval village that was largely remodelled in the 1870s. This includes the Grade II listed Smithy (Bostock Green) and an additional 14 non-designated historic buildings. These include: 1, 5, 7, 9 and 17/19 Bostock Green, Bostock Green Farm (north-east side); Bostock Grange Farms, 2, 6, 16/18, 20/22 Bostock Green, Bostock Social Club (south-west side); and Bostock House and Bostock House Barns (Brick Kiln Lane). The boundary of the conservation area is formed by the properties around Bostock Green on the north-west, the western and southern boundaries being formed by woodland west and south of the C653 Road and A533 Northwich Road. The roads now form the estate boundary which is marked by a low stone wall with a fence in parts. To the north the wall gives way to mature hedgerow. There are three lodges on the periphery of the estate. The northern boundary is formed by the edge of the Bostock Hall estate and to the west by a series of woodland including Oak Clump and Oak Wood. The roads are tree lined throughout. The main access to the Bostock Hall is from Middle Lodge in the west along a causeway between an ornamental lake. Views from here give on to the landscaped parkland of copses, mature trees, meadows and the lake itself. Where the boundaries of the estate are not formed by woodland clumps they are formed by hedgerows. The topography rises towards Bostock Hall, providing it with dominance in internal views and with external views across the River Dane Valley towards the Pennines. The view from Bostock Hall across the Dane Valley is recognised as a key view in the conservation area appraisal. [1]

Setting description:

The conservation area is located on the western side of the valley of the River Dane, the setting is rural in character and largely comprises farmland. To the south of the conservation area an expanse of fields separates it from an industrial estate at the eastern extent of the settlement of Wharton. This is mostly screened from the Bostock Conservation Area by high hedges, however there is some intervisibility from the southern extent of the conservation area due to the flat topography and gaps in the planting. North-east of Bostock Hall the land falls away and gives views of the River Dane and Trent and Mersey Canal to the east with the relatively flat farmland of the Cheshire Plain beyond. Larger copses of woodland are present to the south of this. A linear border of mature woodland separates this from the setting around the settlement of Bostock Green, which is on very slightly raised ground to the north. This setting also includes smaller, mixed use fields with copses of woodland and mature trees in the fields and hedgerows. To the far west is the A533 Northwich Road, which is somewhat busy but bounded by hedgerows and does not dominate within the setting. Overall the conservation area retains its historic context associated with an agricultural, rural setting of fields, parkland and woodland copses. This setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the conservation area.

Asset value assessment:

The conservation area derives its value from its architectural interest of Bostock Hall and associated historic buildings. It also has artistic interest derived from the aesthetics of its designed parkland, woodland copses and rural fields.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Bostock, T. and McLellan, J. (2010), Bostock: A History of its village and its People.
- 2 <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/documents/planning-and-building-consultancy/total-environment/conservation-and-design/conservation-area-appraisals/BostockConservationAreaAppraisal.pdf>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0114

**Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area –
Middlewich to Preston Brook**

Designation and grade: Conservation area

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-305

National Grid Reference: 368350 368825

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 109
NMR n/a

Associated assets

Asset UID Asset name

MA02_0117 Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost at SJ 6805 6928

MA02_0165 Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost at SJ 6828 7293

MA02_0171 Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost at NGR 685734

MA02_0187 Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost north of Bridge Number 192 at SJ 6750 7528

MA02_0248 Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost immediately north of Rumps Lock

MA02_0259 Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost north of Bridge Number 192 at SJ 6750 7528

MA02_0263 Marston (Lion Salt Works) Conservation Area

MA02_0290 Wincham Mill

MA02_0314 Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The Trent and Mersey Canal is divided into two conservation areas that correspond with the two unitary authorities (Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East). The first stretches from Preston Brook to Middlewich (this conservation area), the second from Middlewich to Kent Green (MA02_0314). Within the study area the canal stretches from the A559 Manchester Road in Wincham, Northwich to the Croxton Aqueduct, north of Middlewich. The canal was opened in 1777, after being designed by James Brindley. The canal covers 93 miles in length from Derwent Mouth on the River Trent to Preston Brook on the Bridgewater Canal and all other sections of the canal are conservation areas.

It was a contour canal, following the natural topography of the land in this location along the upper eastern side of the shallow valley of the River Dane before crossing the Stublach Plain around the eastern side of Northwich. Between Middlewich and Preston Brook there are no locks. Originally it was designed for transporting industrial products from the Staffordshire Midlands to the ports on the River Mersey at Preston Brook. It was later adopted by the salt industry around Middlewich and Northwich. This resulted in

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

subsidence and the formation of distinctive flashes examples of which can be seen south of the Davenham Road (the Billinge Green Flash).

The boundaries of the conservation area are defined as a narrow strip either side of the canal which includes canal related infrastructure (i.e. bridges, locks and aqueducts) and associated buildings such as lock keeper's cottages, wharves, warehouses and dry docks. Views along the canal are enclosed and terminate in regular bridges which cross the canal. However, due to its elevated location on the River Dane Valley side views do extend outward across the surrounding rural countryside. Views include north-west to the church of St Wilfrid at Davenham and west to Bostock Hall from the canal between Bridge 176 and 177 along the River Dane Valley.

The conservation area is enclosed on the offside (eastern side) by the natural topography of the land, but also mature woodland that lines the embankment in this location. On the towpath side (western) intermittent hedgerows give a sense of enclosure with external views visible through occasional breaks in the woods and hedgerows. The bridges along this section enhance the character of the canal. The bridges are built of girders and engineering bricks and appear to have been replaced in the 19th century throughout this length. The bridges adopt a flat deck design with girders on this section to allow jacking up in the event of salt subsidence. The edges of the canal are a mix of concrete and soft banks. This gives them an industrial character.

The Croxton Flash, the Billinge Green Flash and a further flash (now a marina) south of the Davenham Road help define this section of the canal. North of Bridge 176 is the Bramble Cutting Picnic Site, a former waterways pit which retains original loading rails. The canal forms a large bend around the Whatcroft Hall Estate. The relationship with the estate is defined by the two lodge houses, next to the bridge that forms its formal entrance from the west.

North of the Davenham Road the canal has a more industrial character and is screened by the large warehouses on the Gadbrook Park Estate. Beyond this it enters the edges of Northwich in the suburb of Rudheath and continues through 20th and 21st century housing estates. An essential element of the character of the canal are the mileposts, several of which are Grade II listed. They bear the entablature R&D Stone 1819. Where the originals are missing replacements have been added in 1977. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the section of the canal corridor from Middlewich to Wincham, which comprises this conservation area, occupies a pleasant, natural landscape along the edge of the Dane Valley before entering the suburbs of Northwich. Due to the extent of the conservation area the setting changes along its length. This setting can be split in to three different sections: south of Whatcroft Hall, north of Whatcroft Hall and the suburban edge of Northwich. South of Whatcroft the close relationship between the River Dane and the canal is not always visually obvious. The canal follows the eastern side of the Dane Valley contouring on a level stretch. This creates broad panoramic vistas over the Dane Valley and short enclosed views along the canal with trees overhanging and lining the banks. It forms a peaceful corridor for nature, leisure crafts and walking. On the eastern side there are intermittent vistas over the hedgerows towards rising arable land. To the west are views over the arable fields of the River Dane valley floor towards the wooded edges of the Bostock Conservation Area. North of Whatcroft Hall the setting changes as the canal passes through more rolling countryside where flashes have formed either side of the canal due to subsidence caused by salt extraction. These create wide open vistas across these bodies of water. In places these have been converted to marinas occupied by canal boats reconnecting them with the canal. Further north, on the suburban edge of Northwich the route becomes urban, lined by the warehouses and industrial units of the Gadbrook Estate and the 20th century suburbs of Rudheath. Linear views between the bridges of the canal predominate and there are few views out from the canal. As it passes along the edge of Rudheath at Broken Cross it runs parallel to the A530 King Street and the noise and presence of traffic can be experienced from the canal. Its setting within the rural landscape and entering Northwich contributes to its heritage value as it aids in understanding the evolution of the canal.

Asset value assessment:

The Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area derives its value from its historical interest as a monument of Britain's industrial past. It is of great industrial archaeological importance and was the first major element of the national canal network, and one of the greatest civil engineering projects of the 18th century.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Vale Royal Borough Council, (2000), Trent and Mersey Conservation Area Appraisal.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Hadfield, C. (1966), 'The Canals of the British Isles' in The Canals of the East Midlands.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0115

Asset name: North Lodge

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 367385 368886

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lodge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160422
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The gate lodge is one of several buildings that were built in the late 19th century as part of the updating of the Bostock Hall Estate and it marks the northern entrance to the parkland around the hall. It is located within the Bostock Conservation Area. It is a two-storey gate lodge that dates to c. 1870. It is built in rendered and white-washed brick with applied timber framing and has a hipped slate roof. It has a gabled open porch with three further bays of windows on the ground floor. There is a canted oriel window on the southern gable end. On the first floor there are two gabled dormers. The first floor has decorative timber framing including quatrefoil details on the gable ends and heavily decorated bargeboards. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the lodge is the formal northern entrance to the designed parkland around Bostock Hall. The hall (MA02_0104) and its associated assets also form part of this setting. Frequent noise from passing traffic on Bostock Road is experienced in contrast to the more peaceful grounds of the former estate. The road forms part of its setting and provides historic context to the lodge. However, the volume and speed of traffic is much greater than when the asset was constructed. Therefore traffic presence and noise, which is part of the asset's setting, reduces the ability to understand the lodge as historically part of a rural estate. The setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset, due to the maintained association between the lodge and the entrance to the designed parkland of the Bostock Estate.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its architectural and historical interest as a good example of a lodge house for a country estate. It has associative value with the Grade II* Bostock Hall (MA02_0104) and forms part of a group of buildings within the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160422>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0116

Asset name: The Smithy

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 367137 369248

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Industrial
Smiths cottage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1310575
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------------|
| MA02_0113 | Bostock Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The smithy is a two-storey red brick cottage located in the small village of Bostock Green. It is built in red brick, with timber frame decoration and a slate roof. It dates to c. 1860. It has three bays symmetrically disposed, with a central projecting bay with a blocked basket headed archway to the ground floor, with windows to either side. Above are three first floor windows with symmetrical fenestration.

The smithy continues the Bostock Estate tradition of red brick and timber framed decorated buildings that characterise the mid to late 19th century improvements of the estate. Bostock Green was a small hamlet from the medieval period but was turned into a model village as part of the establishment of the Bostock Hall Estate from 1775. It forms part of a group with several locally listed buildings in Bostock Green all of which have a uniform style and are in the Bostock Conservation Area. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the smithy is the village of Bostock Green. The surrounding red brick buildings form a linear village along the busy Bostock or Middlewich Road. There is significant traffic flow through the village, the noise of which is urbanising and modernising to the character of the village.

The smithy is set in relation to other buildings within the series of contemporary 19th century buildings that give Bostock Green its character, such as the Bathurst Arms opposite.

The asset and other buildings in its setting form an enclosed group of houses along the road. Views out from the village, particularly to the east, are restricted by mature woodland and copses. These separate the village from the remainder of the Bostock Hall Estate.

Its setting relative to the contemporary buildings of Bostock Green make a positive contribution to its value, despite the intrusion of the busy road.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value for its architectural and historic interest as an example of a smithy within the small settlement of Bostock Green. It has associative value as one of a series of buildings that developed in the estate village for Bostock Hall and forms part of the Bostock Conservation Area (MA02_0113).

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1310575>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0117

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost at SJ 6805 6928

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 368052 369266

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal milepost

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1244514
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|--|
| MA02_0114 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area – Middlewich to Preston Brook |
|-----------|--|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A cast iron canal milepost, painted black and white. Dated "R & D Stone 1819" on the shaft. It comprises a circular post with moulded head and embossed letters on two convex tablets below: "Shardlow 78 miles" "Preston Brook 14 miles". The Trent and Mersey Canal was built between 1766 and 1777 by James Brindley and Hugh Henshall. [1], [2], [3]

Setting description:

The setting of the milepost is on the western bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal on a rural section of the canal. The canal is part of the Trent and Mersey Conservation Area (MA02_0114). Its setting on the canal retains historic context and informs on the milepost's function, making a positive contribution to the heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The milepost represents an example of the way canal markers were used to denote distances from either end of the canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1244514>.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

- 2 Hadfield, C. (1966), 'The Canals of the British Isles' in The Canals of the East Midlands.
- 3 Lindsay, J. (1979), The Trent and Mersey Canal.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0118

Asset name: Former Bombing Decoy Site at Bostock

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-306

National Grid Reference: 368605 369305

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Defence
Bombing decoy site

Period(s): Modern

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 4071
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a bombing decoy and control shelter located in farmland c. 800m south east of Whatcroft Hall at Whatcroft Farm. Bombing decoys were set up in the Second World War (1939-1945) to deceive enemy aircraft into thinking that they were above a major target such as an industrial city. They were made of electrical lights and fires of various sizes. The control shelters were heavily constructed buildings designed to protect the crew and control machinery of the decoys, often also containing the generator for the electricity. This example was a starfish site (a special fire site) and the Control Bunker was located within Whatcroft Farm itself at SJ 682 698. It was designed to provide a bombing decoy for the Northwich Civilian Area. The likelihood is that there would be no surviving archaeological remains of the decoy site and the control centre would be the only part to survive. [1,2]

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as an example of an important site from the World War II Defence of Britain. The survival of these sites which were temporary defences against enemy bombing is rare. In this example there is unlikely to be any archaeological remains on the ground but traces of the associated defences may be present in Whatcroft Hall outbuildings.

Heritage value: Not significant

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Dobinson, C. (2000), Fields of Deception - Britain's Bombing Decoys of World War 2.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH9768>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0119

Asset name: Vicarage, Moulton

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 365986 369730

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Vicarage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1139209
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This is a two-storey vicarage designed by the local Cheshire architect John Douglas and dated c. 1876. It is built in red English bond brick with a slate roof. It is located on the eastern edge of the village of Moulton. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the vicarage is on the eastern side of Moulton on the bend as Jack Lane enters the village. The vicarage is surrounded by walls and mature trees and to the south are pastoral fields in the land between Mere Heath and Moulton. The village of Moulton has expanded in the 20th century from the west and infilled the land between the Church of St Stephen and Moulton War Memorial which would have had an inter relationship with the Vicarage. The 20th century buildings have altered the once rural location and diminished its historic context. The setting of the asset contributes neutrally to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest. The building represents a good example of the red brick 19th century vicarage with some architectural features which contribute to its value. Its association with the regionally significant architect John Douglas contributes to its architectural interest and value.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1139209>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0120

Asset name: Whatcroft Hall Moat

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 368055 369780

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Moat

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 798/2
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------|
| MA02_0122 | Whatcroft Hall Park |
| MA02_0124 | Whatcroft Hall |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Whatcroft Hall moat is located south of the current hall as a surviving earthwork and water filled ditch. It is not certain this is a moated site, but it is reasonable to expect a moat at Whatcroft Hall. Whatcroft was a medieval manor and was first documented in 1255.

Moated sites associated with manors proliferated in England between the 12th and 15th centuries. They are characterised by a waterlogged ditch that encloses a platform of land where buildings were built, though they were also used for horticulture such as orchards.

Moated sites were not necessarily for defensive advantage but were also seen as a sign of prestige.

However, the current earthworks were remodelled c. 1817 to form part of the gardens surrounding Whatcroft Hall as an ornamental pond. Set on the ornamental island was a grotto: a round and dome like hut lined with sea shells. [1,2]

Setting description:

Whatcroft moated site is set within the gardens of Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124). The gardens have been laid out ornamentally and the moat now forms part of this layout.

There is a relationship between the moated site and the hall, as it not only acts as part of the formal garden but also shows historical continuity between the earlier moated site and the later hall which replaced it.

Beyond the immediate gardens the landscape is in a raised position over the shallow River Dane valley to the west.

The farmland to the south is a mix of pasture and arable fields with high hedgerows, this differs from the former medieval landscape at the time the moated site was in use. Although there is possible archaeological evidence for a deserted medieval village and the former park, the moated site has been largely removed from its historic context.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

The setting of the asset contribute neutrally to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as a rare moated site. Moated sites are rare and this is an example of medieval moated site which has been later altered as part of the development of the post-medieval gardens at Whatcroft Hall. This has reduced the value of the monument as some archaeological remains are likely to have been disturbed including on the platform. Additionally, organic material may be preserved in the moat.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Gardens Trust. (2011), Research and Recording Report, R3490, Whatcroft Hall.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8227>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0121

Asset name: Brook House Farm House

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 369126 369782

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160385
HER: DCH6087
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A late 17th century farmhouse that has been altered extensively in the 19th century. It is located west of the A530 King Street on a farm track. It is built in red brick English Garden Wall bond with a slate roof. It is two-storeys high with an attic above, and three bays wide. There is a later 19th century two-storey, two bay rear wing (north-east) which completes a T-shaped plan. The principal elevation faces south with a centre bay set forward as a two-storey gabled porch. The interior has surviving early six-panel doors, bevelled ceiling beams, a dogleg staircase and at the first-floor level exposed joists. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the house is within the farmyard of 19th and 20th century barns of Brook House Farm. The farm is set in fields used for pasture, adjacent to the small Puddinglane Brook west of the A530 King Street. Immediately adjacent to the west is the Middlewich to Northwich Branch Railway line on an embankment which prevents views of the asset from the west. The farmyard setting retains the historic context of the asset and makes a positive contribution to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a good example of a rural farmhouse associated with the rise of the dairy industry in Cheshire in the post-medieval period.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at:

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160385>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0122

Asset name: Whatcroft Hall Park

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 368025 369835

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Gardens, parks and urban spaces
Country park

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 798/4
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| MA02_0120 | Whatcroft Hall Moat |
| MA02_0124 | Whatcroft Hall |
| MA02_0126 | Whatcroft Hall Lodges |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Whatcroft Hall Park is situated east of the River Dane on a steep bluff overlooking the valley. The park surrounds Whatcroft Hall and is bounded to the north and west by the Trent and Mersey Canal, which was constructed around the park. The hall was enlarged, and the grounds improved for the then occupant James and Sarah Topping in 1807. By 1824 Sarah Topping owned and occupied Whatcroft Hall, buildings, gardens and pleasure grounds. The gardens were described in the 1950s as chiefly lawns and hedges, with a walled garden whose walls are covered in fruit trees. The principal historic approach to Whatcroft Hall appears to have been from Shipbrook via Manor Lane and Lodge Bridge over the Trent and Mersey Canal and through the parkland to the arrival space by the north entrance. The Whatcroft Hall Lodges define the entrance over the Trent and Mersey Canal in the north-west corner. The entrance continues as a tree lined avenue through the parkland. The boundaries of the park are defined by the Trent and Mersey Canal to north and west, Whatcroft moated site and the farm buildings to the south, and a boundary line of trees and hedgerows to the east. The tithe map and Ordnance Survey 1st edition map depict a walled garden to the north-east of the hall. The walled garden has a distinctive, almost trapezoidal, shape. The later map depicts glasshouses and buildings located along the walls of the garden. The Cheshire Gardens Trust report suggests that some of these walls may have been heated. There is no visible trace of these. To the south-east of the hall is an ornamental pond and island, the possible former moated site, which contained a grotto and rockery. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of Whatcroft Hall Park is associated with the Grade II* listed Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124), its

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

setting also includes farmland which surrounds the hall and park. This farmland is in keeping with the setting which would have surrounded the park at the time of its creation. To the west the setting includes the Trent and Mersey Canal and River Dane, both lined with mature trees. The park itself is also enclosed by trees which restrict outward views, only where the Whatcroft Hall Lodges define the north-west entrance are there clear views between the parkland and its farmland setting. To the south the ornamental gardens created by the former moat are enclosed by a line of tall trees but here the sense of enclosure is lessened by the topography which falls away to the south and the depth of screening provided by this thin line of trees. To the south-east a mass of 20th century farm buildings further increase the enclosure of the park. To the north-east an intermittent hedge line with a copse and some mature isolated trees provide some screening. Beyond the park the land is defined by pasture and arable farmland with high hedgerows, small copses of trees and woodland whilst the topography predominantly slopes away to the south and west as the park sits on a slight rise at the edge of the River Dane valley. This setting makes a positive contribution to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural value as a historic park and gardens formally designed around Whatcroft Hall. It has aesthetic value derived from its formal gardens around the hall. It has seen some alteration and does not survive as originally envisaged in all places due to encroachment from the complex of farm buildings adjacent to the hall.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Gardens Trust (2011), Research and Recording Report, R3490, Whatcroft Hall.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH24377>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0123

Asset name: Whatcroft Hall Shrunken Village

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 368025 369835

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Shrunken village

Period(s): Medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 798/2
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

This has been suggested as a shrunken medieval village around Whatcroft, but there is little archaeological evidence. Whatcroft was a medieval manor and was first documented in 1255 [1]. A shrunken village is a settlement that shows evidence of earlier buildings that generally became abandoned in the medieval period because of several factors including the reduction in population caused by the Black Death. The location of the shrunken village of Whatcroft is unclear. The line of Whatcroft Lane leading from Drakelow Hall Moated Site and Manor Lane leading from Shipbrook Castle may date to the medieval period. The survival of post-medieval houses along Whatcroft Lane may suggest further settlement in this location. A walkover survey of fields south of Whatcroft Lane and east of Puddinglake Brook revealed topographic features that may represent archaeological evidence for the shrunken village.

Setting description:

Setting does not contribute to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest as an example of a shrunken medieval village. The remains of the village are uncertain and derived from historic evidence as opposed to confirmed archaeological remains.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at:

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

<http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH8227>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0124

Asset name: Whatcroft Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 367992 369856

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Great house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138463
HER: 798/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| MA02_0120 | Whatcroft Hall Moat |
| MA02_0122 | Whatcroft Hall Park |
| MA02_0126 | Whatcroft Hall Lodges |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Whatcroft Hall is a late 18th century mansion built in red brick with a slate hipped roof. The hall was built in 1780 and enlarged in 1807 by James and Elizabeth Topping. The enlargement included a new front and a cupola dome at the centre of the house. There was a 19th century extension adding bay windows, a loggia and a service wing but this was removed in 1938 by the then owner Mrs Florence Flemming Stirling. The hall is roughly square in plan, two storeys high, six bays wide, with a five-bay garden front. The entrance front (north-west) has full height projecting corner pilasters with stone ogee finials at roof level. The central double door has a pilastered and pedimented surround, with sash windows either side. The garden front (south-west) has French and sash windows. At the rear (south-east) there is a fully glazed door in pilastered and pedimented surround, with sash windows either side. In the north-east elevation there is also a door flanked by sash windows. At roof level there is a copper-covered ogee Cupola, with a weather vane. Lead hips and plain stack at external walls. The interior includes a stone spiral staircase in a well beneath the cupola. The entrance hall, north-west room, and north-east room have surviving 19th century interior decoration. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of Whatcroft Hall is within its historic landscaped park (MA02_0122) enclosed by mature trees. To the immediate north is an exotic animal farm and to the south designed gardens with an ornamental horseshoe lake. It sits on marginally higher ground overlooking the surrounding landscape but is largely surrounded by mature woodland which encloses the park. To the north and west the Trent and Mersey Canal runs around the park on a terrace of land above the River Dane. The canal is surrounded by a band

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

of mature deciduous woodland which encloses and screens the hall from views from the exterior. To the east, 20th century farm buildings provide a block of buildings that restrict views towards and from the hall. The area to the south around the moated site is wooded with areas of mature trees providing some enclosure and partially restricting views. South of the hall are arable fields with little woodland cover and the top of the hall and the cupola can be glimpsed through the surrounding parkland. The hall is peaceful and quiet and removed from the noise associated with surrounding roads. The setting positively contributes to the value of the asset as it retains its historic context surrounded by parkland and farmland that would have formed its estate.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a good example of high class rural domestic architecture. The architectural design and improvements by James and Elizabeth Topping make this one of the best examples of 19th century country houses in Cheshire. It has retained many of the external and internal features, as well as its historic context within its own parkland.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138463>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0125

Asset name: Bridge Cottage and Canal Cottage

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 368309 370095

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160389
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

These are two cottages that were formerly an early 19th century, single farmhouse. The farmhouse was built in brown brick in English Garden Wall bond with a pitched slate roof. It is two storeys high, with an attic above and two bays wide. A two storey, three-bay wing is located at the rear (north-west) and completes a T-shaped plan. On the south-west side a later two-storey porch has been added into the internal angle formed by the rear wing. The interior includes some surviving chamfered beams [1].

The farmhouse complex is depicted on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map as a larger complex which has reduced in size, with the removal of buildings on the north-east side [2].

The original farm included a series of farm buildings west and south-west of the listed cottages. These were a small outbuilding, the L-plan barn and rectangular barn at Bridge Farm and The Barn on the opposite side of Whatcroft Lane. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the cottages is on the quiet Whatcroft Lane, within a 19th century farmyard, surrounded by rural farmland, which is in keeping with their historic context. The farmland opens out around the cottages so that they are surrounded to the south by agricultural fields, with distant woodland copses beyond. The cottages were previously a farmhouse and retain their close association with the non-designated buildings that form the barns of Bridge Farm and The Barn. The route north-east along Whatcroft Lane retains the historic connection between the canal and the former farmhouse. The remnants of a rural wharf survive on the southern bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal, which would have been used to take dairy products to markets in the urban centres of Manchester and Liverpool. The historic context of the cottages is retained by their association with the surrounding farm buildings, the rural farmland and the route along Whatcroft Lane to the Trent and Mersey Canal. The setting contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The two cottages derive their value from historic and architectural interest as an example of rural architecture of a former farmhouse typical of the expansion of the dairy industry in the 19th century. The cottages' relationship to the Trent and Mersey Canal contributes to their historic value, as this transport link would have taken agricultural produce to markets in towns and cities.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160389>.
- 2 1899 Ordnance Survey Map

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0126

Asset name: Whatcroft Hall Lodges

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 367840 370150

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lodge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 798/3
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---------------------|
| MA02_0122 | Whatcroft Hall Park |
| MA02_0124 | Whatcroft Hall |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A pair of entrance lodges which are locally listed. The Whatcroft Hall Lodges flank the entrance to Whatcroft Hall Park from Manor Lane. They are on the eastern side of the Trent and Mersey Canal just beyond the Manor Lane Bridge. The principal historic approach to the 18th century hall appears to have been from Shipbrook via Manor Lane and Lodge Bridge over the Trent and Mersey Canal and through the parkland to the north entrance. The Lodge to the north of the drive is the earliest building and is possibly associated with the renovation of Whatcroft Hall. It is visible on the Whatcroft Tithe map of 1838 and may have been expanded in the later 19th century. The Lodge is a two-storey house, in red brick painted white with timber frame details to the gables. An additional wing has been added to the west. The roof is pitched tile construction. The building to the south of the drive, known as Gate Lodge, was built in the first decade of the 20th century. It is constructed in red brick with the first-floor timber framed in the revived brick and timber framed tradition of mid Cheshire. It has a main range with two gabled wings facing west. The pitched tile roof has two elaborate chimney stacks. [1] [2]

Setting description:

The setting of the lodges is on the banks of the Trent and Mersey Canal where the bridge crosses and enters the grounds of Whatcroft Hall (MA02_0124). The canal is quiet in this location with only the sound of overhead aircraft. The lodges main aspect is onto the driveway as it crosses the bridge. They also have canal side gardens on the secluded canal corridor. There are long views from the asset over the landscape to the west and overlooking the River Dane in the valley below. Their setting adjacent to the Trent and Mersey Canal makes a positive contribution to their heritage value as they continue to flank the bridge that forms the northern entrance to Whatcroft Hall Park (MA02_0122).

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Asset value assessment:

The lodges derive their value from their historic and architectural interest as a pair of buildings that formed the entrance lodge houses to the Grade II* listed Whatcroft Hall. Architecturally they are different but of sufficient quality combining red brick and timber framed detailing to reflect the build of Whatcroft Hall itself.

Heritage value: Low

Sources:

- 1 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH17418>
- 2 Cheshire Gardens Trust. (2011), Research and Recording Report, R3490, Whatcroft Hall.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0127

Asset name: Drakelow Hall moated site, fishponds and moated enclosure

Designation and grade: Scheduled monument

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 370424 370153

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Moat

Period(s): Medieval, and
Post-medieval.

References

References: NHLE: 1020100
HER: 807/1/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
| n/a | n/a |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

"The monument at Drakelow Hall comprises a well-preserved moated site with four adjacent fishponds and a rectangular moated enclosure. The site consists of a grass covered island approximately 55m square, the surface of which exhibits slight ridge and furrow, surrounded by a moat 5m wide by 1.7m deep that is waterlogged for much of its circumference. An outer bank exists adjacent to the north west and south west arms of the moat. To the north west is a linear set of fishponds connected by a dry channel. A single fishpond lies further west. A low causeway runs between the linear fishponds and leads to the outer edge of the moat where it becomes a raised bank from where a bridge or drawbridge would have given access onto the island. Another single fishpond lies close to the moat's north eastern arm and connects by a short dry channel to a dry field ditch running north west-south east from the southern corner of a trapezoidal field south of Drakelow Hall Farm. An 'L'- shaped dry outlet channel issues from the largest fishpond and connects with this dry field ditch, in the process of which it forms the south west and south east arms of a grass-covered moated enclosure of approximately 40m by 18m. The site was an important Royal demesne manor and sanctuary and was mentioned in a letter of 1355 to the Justiciar of Chester. Most moats were constructed between 1250-1350 and are generally seen as an indication of the prestigious residences of the Lords of the manor. The moat in such circumstances marked the high status of the owner, but also served to deter casual raiders and wild animals. All field boundaries are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included. Drakelow Hall moated site, fishponds and moated enclosure is a rare example in Cheshire of an important medieval Royal demense manor and sanctuary. It is mentioned in a letter to the Justiciar of Chester in the mid 14th century and survives as a well-preserved earthwork unencumbered by modern building. The complexity of surviving remains, including the main moated site, the linear set of fishponds and the two single fishponds, the system of connecting water channels and the

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

moated enclosure, is of particular note." [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the Drakelow Hall Moated Site is in the flat landscape of fields used for pasture which comprises the Stublach Plain. The site lies in an area of rough fields and copses south of the present Drakelow Hall. This is a secluded area east of the busy A530 King Street off Drakelow Lane, an unpaved bridleway. The land largely retains its historic context of agriculture with the exception that satellite sites from the Stublach Gas Storage Plant have partially encircled the site. This setting makes a positive contribution to heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its archaeological interest. Drakelow Hall moated site, fishponds and moated enclosure is a rare well-surviving example in Cheshire of an important medieval Royal demesne manor and sanctuary. It survives as a well-preserved earthwork unencumbered by modern building. The complexity of surviving remains, including the main moated site, the linear set of fishponds and the two single fishponds, the system of connecting water channels and the moated enclosure, is of particular note. Moated sites are nationally important and form a significant class of medieval monument that are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1020100>.
- 2 Booth, P.H. (1979), 'J Chester A S' in *Farming For Profit in the 14th Century*, Vol. 62.
- 3 Capstick, B. (1986), FMW Report : Drakelow Hall moated site, Cheshire SMR No 807/1/1.
- 4 Darvill, T. (1988), MPP Single Monument Class Descriptions - Moats.
- 5 Dennison, E. (1988), MPP Single Monument Class Descriptions - Fishponds.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0128

Asset name: Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost at SJ 6832 7024

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 368326 370235

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Canal milepost

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1244515
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0314 | Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area - Middlewich to Kent Green |
|-----------|---|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A cast iron canal milepost painted black and white. Dated "R & D Stone 1819" on the shaft. It comprises a circular post with a moulded head and embossed letters on two convex tablets below: "Shardlow 79 miles" "Preston Brook 13 miles". The Trent and Mersey Canal was built between 1766 and 1777 by James Brindley and Hugh Henshall. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the milepost is on the Trent and Mersey Canal on a rural section that passes in a wide loop around Whatcroft Hall and Park. The milepost is located on the northern towpath bank of the canal within the surviving hedgerow. It maintains its association with the Trent and Mersey Canal. The setting of the milepost makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The value of the asset derives from its historic and archaeological interest and association with the Trent and Mersey Canal which is one of the earliest canals built in England. The milepost represents an example of the way canal markers were used to denote distances from either end of the canal.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1244515>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0130

Asset name: Davenham Hall

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II*

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 366256 370717

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Mansion house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138431
HER: 7871/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0134 | The Lodge, Davenham |
| MA02_0137 | Davenham Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Davenham Hall is a country house on the eastern outskirts of the village of Davenham. It dates to the mid to late 18th century, with substantial 19th century additions. The eastern side includes the original three-bay mid to late 18th century farmhouse. The main building, dating to the 19th century, is a two-storey building constructed of cream coloured stuccoed brick with a slate roof. The entrance front faces north and has six bays symmetrically disposed. The central two bays project slightly with a ground floor porch of three bays flanked by Roman Tuscan columns. The interior has an entrance hall and an open well staircase of three flights with a circular lantern carrying a dome above. The building now operates as an elderly residents care home. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of Davenham Hall is within its associated parkland and surrounding woodland south-west of the village core of Davenham. It has a prominent position above the historic core of the village focused on Church Lane with clear inter-visibility of the spire of St Wilfred's Church. The busy A533 Davenham Bypass is visible through woodland along the road. However, this woodland screens the hall from the east and the natural topography partially reduces the sound of traffic noise. The hall retains much of its historic context despite the later development of the Davenham Bypass. This setting, including its associated parkland, provides historic context and contributes positively to the value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest. The building represents a good example of the 18th and 19th century rural mansions with some external and internal architectural features

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

which contribute to its heritage value.

Heritage value: High

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138431>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0131

Asset name: Fountain, Davenham

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-02-303
National Grid Reference: 366032 370720

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Gardens, parks and urban spaces
Fountain
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138426
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0137 | Davenham Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A late 19th century fountain and canopy on the junction between London Road and Fountain Lane in Davenham. It is square fountain canopy set in triangular surround, constructed in yellow sandstone ashlar. Inscriptions read "IN MEMORY OF JOHN HOSKEN HARPER ESQ OF DAVENHAM HALL" and "HE WAS A FATHER TO THE POOR AND THE CAUSE WHICH HE KNEW NOT HE SEARCHED OUT JOB CH.29V.16". [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the fountain is on the corner of the busy London Road and Fountain Lane in the village of Davenham. The Fountain was associated with Davenham Hall but inter-visibility between the two listed structures is restricted by woodland lining London Row. There are a few buildings contemporary with the fountain in its setting, including the Grade II listed The Lodge (MA02_0133) and 542 London Road (MA02_0134). However, it is mostly surrounded by 20th century houses and has lost much of its historic context. This setting on a road junction positively contributes to its heritage value. This is because it forms a focal point on the Davenham Conservation Area (MA02_0137). Despite the lost direct visual associations with the park of Davenham Hall, the setting makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of an ornate fountain with a direct historic association with the owners of Davenham Hall.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138426>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0132

Asset name: Brook Farm, Old Lane, Davenham

Designation and grade: Non-designated

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 367990 370770

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: DCH6371
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Brook Farm is a locally listed, brick built, two-storey farmhouse, with timber framed element on the first floor. There is a single gable entrance at the front which forms a two-storey bay. Behind the farmhouse are two two-storey red brick barns with grey slate roofs. The building is visible on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map (earlier 1st edition map not available) in its current plan form. None of the farm buildings depicted on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map have survived. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is its farmyard and related 19th century brick barns. To the rear is a garden with high hedges and mature trees. The farmhouse retains its rural historic context surrounded by arable fields and hedgerows on the adjacent quiet lane which is a dead end. The topography is flat with the grain of hedgerows and associated trees providing repeated layers of screening in eastward views. The setting positively contributes to the value of the asset, as it maintains its historic context of farmland and 19th century barns.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a 19th century farmhouse in mid Cheshire. Its use of red brick and timber framing is typical of the local vernacular style of rural farmhouses.

Heritage value: Low

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Vale Royal Borough Council. (2006), Vale Royal Borough Council's List of Locally Important Buildings.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0133

Asset name: 542, London Road

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 366022 370772

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Detached house

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1160589
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0137 | Davenham Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A two-storey house, with a datestone reading '1741'. It is built in red brick in English Garden Wall bond with a plain tile roof. The front entrance has a central 20th century gabled porch. [1]

Setting description:

The house is set in its garden, surrounded by mature trees, set back from London Road at the southern end of Davenham. It has seen the encroachment of later housing developments which has removed its historic context. It does retain its association with the village and across the street to the east elements of the original landscape around Davenham Hall. Its setting associated with the village of Davenham makes a positive contribution to this value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic interest as one of the earlier surviving houses in Davenham.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1160589>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0134

Asset name: The Lodge, Davenham

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 366064 370811

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Lodge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1310498
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0130 | Davenham Hall |
| MA02_0137 | Davenham Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The gate lodge to Davenham Hall, which is now a single storey house. It is located just off London Road, south of the entrance gateway. It dates to the early 19th century. It was built in whitewashed stuccoed brick with a hipped slate roof. The drive front has a bowed wing with a central doorway and cross windows to either side. To rear (east) and north of the property are pavilions of similar design extending the building. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the Lodge is at the formal entrance to Davenham Hall from London Road. It forms a prominent position on the road before it falls away to the north towards the centre of the village of Davenham. To the rear of the Lodge its historic context is retained by its relationship with the parkland around Davenham Hall. Views of Davenham Hall follow the sweep of the drive to the east but are limited by the gentle rise of the land. Its setting relative to Davenham Hall contributes positively to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives value from its historic and architectural interest. It is a good example of a surviving lodge house associated with an important rural hall. It has an association with the grade II listed Davenham Hall (MA02_0130) which is manifested visually in views up the driveway which runs to the north of the lodge house.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1310498>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0135

Asset name: Bridge End Farmhouse

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 367039 370812

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farmhouse

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1310508
HER: 714/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A two-storey L-plan farmhouse. It is timber framed with whitewashed brick infill and a tile roof (probably replacing the original thatch). It dates to the mid to late 17th century with 19th and 20th century additions and alterations. The original 17th century timber framed wing projects to the north of the main body of the house. The main entrance faces the garden and is timber framed with three bays of windows on the ground floor and a gabled dormer casement window on the first floor. [1,2]

Setting description:

The setting of the farmhouse is within the working farmyard. The farm buildings to the south include a mix of 19th and 20th century barns in a large complex. The surrounding fields are used for pasture and surrounded by hedgerows. The line of the River Dane meanders directly to the east and the farm is located at the base of the shallow river valley, lined by mature trees. There is inter-visibility with the Grade II listed Shipbrook Bridge (MA02_0139) to the north. The farm retains much of its historic context as a working farm surrounded by farmland, this positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of a 17th century farmhouse with later 19th and 20th century additions that developed in mid Cheshire due to the expansion of the dairy industry.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1310508>.
- 2 Cheshire Shared Services (2018), Cheshire Historic Environment Record, available online at: <http://rcplive.cheshiresharedservices.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MCH7960>

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0136

Asset name: Farm Building at Manor Farm

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-01-307

National Grid Reference: 367897 370848

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Agriculture and subsistence
Farm building

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138462
HER: 712/1
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| MA02_0206 | Barn south-west of Manor Farmhouse |
| MA02_0207 | Manor Farmhouse, Cranage |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

A two storey multi-use farm building at Manor Farm. It dates to the late 17th century with 19th century alterations. It has an L-shaped plan. The earlier timber-framed and brick infilled element is to the rear (north), with four truss bays and a tile roof above. The later 19th century part is built in red brick and lines the adjacent lane at the front (south). There are round pitch holes, with stone sills, at loft level. The interior has an oak studded door, an open loft staircase, original trusses, purlins, wind braces and ridge trees. It forms part of a group with Manor Farmhouse and the adjacent barns. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the barn is within the Manor Farm farmyard and associated with the locally listed Manor House to the east. There are later farm buildings to the north. The setting is internalised within the working farmyard surrounded by high hedges and arable fields with a slight rise in the topography to the east. Its setting within a functioning farmyard makes a positive contribution to the heritage value of the asset.

Asset value assessment:

The asset has value due to its architectural and archaeological interest as an example of an early post-medieval timber framed barn. Due to changes in agricultural practice many of these buildings have been lost and surviving examples of this quality are rare.

Heritage value: Moderate

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138462>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0137

Asset name: Davenham Conservation Area

Designation and grade: Conservation area

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 366250 370860

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Settlement

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE n/a
HER: 088
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|---|
| MA02_0130 | Davenham Hall |
| MA02_0131 | Fountain, Davenham |
| MA02_0133 | 542, London Road |
| MA02_0134 | The Lodge, Davenham |
| MA02_0138 | Bull's Head Inn |
| MA02_0140 | The Old Rectory, Davenham |
| MA02_0142 | 61, 63 and 65, Church Street |
| MA02_0143 | Lych Gate in Churchyard of St Wilfred |
| MA02_0144 | Table Tomb c. 15 yards east of Church of St Wilfred |
| MA02_0145 | Church of St Wilfred |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Davenham Conservation Area is located around the historic core of the village defined at the north by the southern extent of London Road and the T-junction with Church Street.

The T-Junction forms the centre of the village around two listed public houses, the Grade II listed Bulls Head and the Oddfellows Arms.

The broad, tree-lined, London Road has a mix of 20th century housing estates and older more historic buildings. Church Lane retains much of the oldest housing stock in the village. This creates a narrow and visually appealing street scape of red brick 18th and 19th century houses that lead to St Wilfred's Church. The church and churchyard define the eastern side of the village along with the parkland that surrounds Davenham Hall.

Both these listed buildings are set on prominent positions that overlook the shallow valley of the River Dane and the land slopes away to the east from here.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Setting description:

The setting of the conservation area is within the agricultural land of the Cheshire Plain. It overlooks the River Dane valley and many key views are out of the conservation area to the east. Views from St Wilfred's Church and Davenham Hall take in the surrounding rural landscape. These are notable for the density of visual screening caused by copses, mature trees and hedgerows which create a barrier across the landscape where only the tallest structures and distant hills are visible. The eastern side of the village has notable noise pollution from the A556 Shurlach Road, Northwich Bypass and the A533 Davenham Bypass. However, both are visually screened by mature tree lines. Although these roads are visually perceptible particularly in winter when tree cover is low, they have little effect on the peaceful nature of the village. Its setting contributes positively to its value as it maintains historic context, despite the presence of noise pollution from the A533 Davenham Bypass.

Asset value assessment:

Davenham Conservation Area derives its value from its historic and architectural interest, as it represents the gradual development of the historic village. The core of the village, along Church Lane, has a number of post-medieval buildings of 18th century date. These aesthetically form a group of red brick buildings of a cohesive age and style. The area around the St Wilfred's Church has a further grouping of related buildings, whilst further south Davenham Hall and parkland, the associated lodge and several other listed buildings form the south-eastern historic edge of the settlement.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources: n/a

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0138

Asset name: Bull's Head Inn

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam
Additional community area(s): n/a
Map book reference: HE-02-303
National Grid Reference: 366018 371088

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Commercial
Public house
Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138430
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0137 | Davenham Conservation Area |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The Bull's Head Inn is a public house located in the centre of Davenham, a datestone suggests the building is from 1764. It is built in red brick in Flemish bond. The building is three-storeys high with four bays to the west facing entrance front. The fenestration involves a doorway on the ground floor with three windows on the ground, first and second floor. The Inn has been extended to the north and south in the mid 19th century. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the inn is the centre of Davenham on the junction of Church Street with London Road. The inn forms part of the central group of historic red brick buildings set back from London Road in a cobbled courtyard. It is one of the principal buildings in the area with key views of this building group south down London Road. Views of the building are restricted from the east by the built townscape and short views from the junction with Church Street. Its setting contributes positively to its heritage value as it continues to form one of a central group of buildings in the village.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest due to its age as a good example of country inn's within a surviving rural village.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at:

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138430>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0139

Asset name: Shipbrook Bridge

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 367123 371136

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Transport
Bridge

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1138432
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|------------|
|-----------|------------|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| n/a | n/a |
|-----|-----|

Description and sources

Full asset description:

Shipbrook Bridge carries Shipbrook Road over the River Dane. It dates to the early to mid 19th century. It has a single span built in red sandstone ashlar with a parapet formed of large blocks of stone with a chamfered coping. The walls are slightly canted to either side and terminating in square piers with pyramidal caps. The bridge spans Davenham and Whatcroft parishes. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the bridge is at the bottom of the shallow River Dane valley. It carries the Shipbrook Road over the narrow meandering River Dane. The surrounding pasture fields, east of the village of Davenham with their high hedgerows, have few buildings except for the occasional farm. The bridge is mainly visible looking north or south down the River Dane across the fields. Its setting positively contributes to its value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as a 19th century stone bridge at a traditional crossing point of the River Dane.

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1138432>.

Unique Gazetteer ID (UID): MA02_0140

Asset name: The Old Rectory, Davenham

Designation and grade: Listed building Grade II

Asset location

Community area: MA02 Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Additional community area(s): n/a

Map book reference: HE-02-303

National Grid Reference: 366388 371193

Asset class/type and dates

Monument class/type: Domestic
Vicarage

Period(s): Post-medieval

References

References: NHLE: 1310516
HER n/a
NMR n/a

Associated assets

| Asset UID | Asset name |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| MA02_0137 | Davenham Conservation Area |
| MA02_0145 | Church of St Wilfred |

Description and sources

Full asset description:

The two storey Old Rectory dates to the mid to late 18th century. It is built in red brick in Flemish bond with a pitched slate roof. The entrance front faces north and has five bays symmetrically disposed. The central bay projects slightly and has a ground floor flat-roofed porch which has Roman Doric columns and pilaster responds. Either side are sash windows and there are five bays of sash windows on the first floor. The Old Rectory was associated with St Wilfred's Church which is located directly opposite on the north side of Church Street. [1]

Setting description:

The setting of the Old Rectory is at the eastern end of Church Street in the village of Davenham. The rectory has a stone wall and formal hedgerows, with mature trees within its garden that separate it from Church Street. There is a direct inter-relationship between the Old Rectory and the Grade II Church of St Wilfred (MA02_0145) to the north. It is on the very edge of the earliest part of the village surrounded by countryside of pasture defined by hedgerows. To the east is the A533 Davenham Road that lies in a cutting and is partially screened by a line of tall trees. Its setting within the village and in relation to other historic assets in the village centre makes a positive contribution to its heritage value.

Asset value assessment:

The asset derives its value from its historic and architectural interest as an example of an 18th century rectory building. It has group value with St Wilfred's Church (MA02_0145) and the lych gate located immediately to the north on the opposite side of Church Street.

Background Information and Data

Historic environment

BID HE-001-0MA02

MA02: Wimboldsley to Lostock Gralam

Historic environment baseline report – Part 1 of 2

Heritage value: Moderate

Sources:

- 1 Historic England, National Heritage List for England, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1310516>.

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