

# **Knowsley Historic Settlement Study**

## **Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project**

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Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project  
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ENGLISH HERITAGE



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## **Introduction to Historic Settlement Study**

The aim of the historic settlement study was to produce a consistent pro-forma template of information on settlements identified across all the historical townships in all 5 districts of Merseyside as based on the relevant paper First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile maps for Lancashire (published 1848 -1851) and Cheshire (1881 - 1882) . The purpose was to help provide background information for the data capture of character area polygons and also bring together some information on known or highlight other historic settlements, many of which have been lost or disguised by urban development. It was also thought that information would be useful for alerting to areas of possible archaeological interest to support the development management advice given by Merseyside Archaeological Advisory Service to the five districts. Historic urban settlement character is one of the key priority areas for research within Merseyside and one for which there is currently least documented archaeological evidence.

The study was desk-based and drew on accessible sources held within the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. A total of one hundred and seventeen separate studies were completed as follows:- Knowsley: 11, Liverpool: 30, Sefton: 23, St Helens: 11, Wirral: 42

This includes the slightly more detailed work on 'historic towns' (see Appendix 7 of main district report for methodology outline).

The settlement study represents a consistent synthesis of information to highlight settlement by the mid to later nineteenth century, complimenting the earliest set historic period for project data capture. It is not a definitive statement on the origins of settlement across Merseyside. Further detailed documentary and fieldwork research is required. The studies were initially carried out in tandem with the characterisation data capture for each district. They were all in initial draft by April 2008 (recommencement of the MHCP data capture) and accessible to provide background information for the character area polygons. For example, a Current area of industrial expansion might contain the otherwise unidentified medieval or post-medieval core of the township.

What determines our settlement identification?

- A clear group or concentration of buildings named on the map whether this is based on a nucleated group or linear 'ribbon' type development along one or more routes - generally characterised by some of the following: dwellings, school, inn, church, rectory farms, manor house, industry (i.e. coal mines/brick works).
- Settlement areas for which there is not an identifiable core from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map sheets - these are still included and described within the context of their historic township. For some areas, the lack of identifiable core relates to the actual dispersed nature of settlement by the mid to later nineteenth century i.e. based on individual farms and estates. Alternatively some settlements clearly represent linear development along prominent routes and are the result of urban expansion and infilling of land around dispersed villas/farms/industries from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Many settlements have been submerged into later urban expansion, although do retain some historic survival/archaeological potential in their own right. Many were simply not already identified within the HER, symptomatic of the lack of research in to urban areas during its core compilation in the 1980's. Many have been previously degraded through historic demolition and remain under threat of loss, assisted by a combination of a lack of awareness and understanding of local historic interest and/or unwillingness to explore alternative regeneration solutions.

The results from the settlement studies compliment the existing content of the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. Furthermore, they have already supported:

- the planning advice given by the Merseyside Archaeological Advisory Service, enabling quick initial reference for individual planning appraisals,
- supply (in draft) to HER enquirers and other project consultants i.e. carrying out Conservation Area Appraisals,
- the data content of a pilot interactive on the archaeology of Merseyside in the Magical History Tour exhibition (2007, National Museums Liverpool).

The Settlement Study has not only highlighted areas of new archaeological interest but has the potential to contribute to regeneration and Conservation Area appraisals

simply by highlighting interest worthy of further desk-based and research in the field. In addition they may contribute to compilation of lists of buildings and areas of local interest and community based projects.

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## **Cronton**

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SE / SJ 48 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 493 882 Also Town End at SJ 494 887
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Cronton
Geology:	Some pebble beds outcrop in the north of the township and the remaining area is overlain by boulder clay
Historic Core:	The settlement is in the centre of the township, at the crossroads of Cronton Road and Smithy Lane.
Origin of Name:	Crohinton (1242). Crow's farm (1). From Old English <i>Crawe na</i> (possessive plural) <i>tun</i> (1). Crounton (c.1250), Crointon (1332) (1).
Topography:	A fairly flat township around 30m. The M62 motorway bounds the township to the north. There are some areas of woodland in the west of the township.
History:	Recorded at Domesday as part of the hundred of Warrington. In the twelfth century the township was in the control of Matthew, son of William. In 1250 it was given by Edmund de Lacy to Stanlaw Abbey (2). The abbot of Stanlaw is recorded as being involved in boundary disputes in the fourteenth century (2). There is early fourteenth century documentary evidence of open field agriculture in the township (3). The area of Pex Hill is recorded as common land in the mid thirteenth-century, and by 1659 there is evidence that this may not yet have been fully enclosed (3). After the reformation the township was sold to Thomas Holt of Grislehurst. In the late sixteenth century it was sold by his heirs to Thomas Brook, then on to Thomas Ireland and again to James Pemberton of Halsnead (2). Population can be estimated from various records, in 1587 20 messuages were recorded, in 1663 this had increased to 41 hearths, and that figure seems to have remained fairly stable, with 40 hearths being recorded in 1843 (3). From the seventeenth century onwards the township passed to a number of freeholders, the most powerful of which were the Wright family, who possessed the hall until the early nineteenth century (2). The township remains agricultural, being recorded in 1907 as "for the most part open country occupied by arable fields" (2), and today it remains rural in character.

Present landmarks:	Cronton Hall (c.1740), restored in the Victorian period, by the Wright family, but contains some eighteenth-century features (gates and posts) (4). There are numerous post-medieval and later farm buildings, including Holly Farm House and Penny Lane Farm Barn (Post-medieval) which is a cruck building Cronton School (c.1830) was built on the land around Grice's House. (5)
Historic landmarks:	Windmill (medieval) stood on Pex Hill (2). There are no extant remains on the ground, but several records of ownership and claiming fees from it. (5)
Early Activity:	Spot-finds of a Mesolithic flint blade and a Bronze Age tanged-and-barbed arrowhead have been found on Pex Hill. (5)
Significant Post-Med Activity:	Post-medieval industry included coal-mining and quarrying (3). The archaeological remains of the Cronton colliery to the south east of junction six on the M62 have been assessed (6). All structures associated with the colliery have been demolished, and only the concrete-capped mine shafts remained in 2003 (6). The south Lancashire coal mining industry developed in the early sixteenth century, and in the reign of Elizabeth I export to Ireland provided renewed markets for the coal, increasing output from around 300 tons a year in the late sixteenth century to around 1200 tons a year in the early seventeenth century, and up again to nearly 4,000 tons a year in the second quarter of the seventeenth century (6). By the nineteenth century coal mining became a major industry in Lancashire, and these coal mines expanded to the north (6). Other post-medieval industries in the township were quarrying (on Pex Hill) and the production of watchmaker's tools (2).
Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:	Town End, now forms the north of the settlement, but was formerly a separate core.
Maps:	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 114. Surveyed 1845-47. Published 1849
References:	(1) Mills, D. 1976. <i>The Place names of Lancashire</i> . Batsford. London. (2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. <i>The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster</i> . Volume Three. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London. (3) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. <i>The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside</i> . Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.

- (4) Pevsner, N. 1969. *The Buildings of South Lancashire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Lee, A. 2003. *Cronton Colliery, Knowsley, Merseyside*. Oxford Archaeology North. Lancaster.

## Halewood

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 48 NW, SJ 48NE, and SJ 48 SW
NGR (centred):	North End SJ 442 870 Lane Ends SJ 453 859 (Halewood Village)
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Halewood
Geology:	Solid Geology is Permo-Triassic Sandstone. Drift Geology mainly boulder clay
Historic Core:	<p>The distribution of moated sites and dispersed farmsteads suggest that Halewood was wooded during the Medieval Period. Several references to grants of lands with rights of common and to assart, suggest disafforestation probably started to take place in the thirteenth century and completed by the fourteenth century.</p> <p>There were three nucleated settlements within the township of Halewood, one of these settlements (Hale, possibly the most ancient of the three) is outside the political boundary of Knowsley, Merseyside study area.</p> <p>Of the two settlements that fall in the Merseyside part of Halewood, the hamlet known as North End, named after the farmstead it developed around, was a small linear settlement located north of Halewood Green. The other settlement was known as Lane Ends, and later the 'Village' (current Halewood village). This developed along a linear stretch of road (now called Church Road) and ended at a junction with Bailey's Lane. It is difficult to distinguish which is the older of the two. Both seem to have developed during the latter part of eighteenth century. However, archaeological excavations at Court Farm (2006), located within the settlement core of the 'Village' revealed a Romano-British settlement and also demonstrated further evidence that later settlement occurred within the early and later Medieval period, thus suggesting that the Village area may have some form of settlement core from as early as the Iron Age, so therefore should be deemed as the earliest and principle settlement</p>
Origin of Name:	Wood belonging to the village of Hale c.1200 AD OE (1). <i>Halewode</i> c.1200 AD meaning wood belonging to Hale (2)
Topography:	Gently sloping from west to east of township.

History: Halewood was part of Hale Township during the Medieval Period and controlled by the crown. It was granted to Richard of Meath 1203 (3) and the western part of the township formed part of the royal forest, which is documented to have situated between the Flaxpool and the Quintbridge, with the latter thought to have been the western part of Halewood. Though Halewood became a township in its own right it was still entangled politically with Hale. There were two principal families; the Holland and the Ireland families, the former being the overlords (4). Both families owned land in each township with the Ireland's having a preference for Hale even though their manorial residence was situated in Halewood at the moated site of the Old Hutte until the building of Hale hall during the sixteenth century. The Holland's preference seemed to be that of Halewood and resided in the eastern part of township at the moated site of Lovell's Hall. The Holland's lands descended to the Lovell's during the fifteenth century and then to the Stanley's in 1487 because the estate was confiscated by the crown after the battle of Bosworth 1485 (4). The Ireland's holding eventually passed onto the Blackburn family.

Present Landmarks: There are still some buildings that date to the Post-medieval and early Industrial Periods, such as Wellbrook Farm and Wellbrook Cottage, Brook House Farm, Yew Tree Farm and Yew Tree House Farm (5). Other modern features that now characterise Halewood are the 1960's Ford Factory and the mid-nineteenth century railways.

Historic Landmarks: Old Hutte the manorial seat of the Ireland family; excavations had shown the moated site date to at least the early fourteenth century (6). The site was situated to the south part of the Ford factory complex. Wright's moat was situated to the west of the Old Hutte; excavation never revealed what type and date of structure stood on the moated platform, however, medieval pottery was uncovered. Yew Tree House, another medieval moated site demolished during a 1970's housing development was believed to be the hunting lodge of the Derby's (6).

Early Activity: There is strong evidence that the township of Halewood was occupied during the Late Prehistoric Period to the Early Medieval period. Excavations at Brook House Farm for the construction of the A5300 (7) showed evidence of site occupation from the late Prehistoric period to the Medieval Period. Excavation at Court Farm (7) demonstrated evidence of different period occupation ranging from Romano-British to the Saxon Period. There has also been stray Roman coin finds in

the area around Finch Farm, west of Brook House Farm

Significant Post-Med Activity: Halewood had a predominately agricultural economy up to and beyond the nineteenth century. The arrival of the railways in the mid-nineteenth century created some non agricultural industry and related cottages. The significant change to Halewood occurred with the construction of the Ford factory and the inner city move out of Liverpool during the 1960's, which brought mass housing and industry to the area.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: North End Hamlet is mentioned above.

Maps: Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5)  
Greenwood 1818 West Derby Hundred (LRO DDP  
144/11)  
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO)  
Halewood Tithe map 1843 (LRO DRL 1/32)  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 6" Lancashire Sheet 114. Surveyed  
1845-6. Published 1849.

References:

- (1) Mills D., 1976. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Batsford.
- (2) Ekwall E., 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (3) Wrathmell, S. 1960. *Excavation and Survey at the Old Hutt, Halewood in 1960*.
- (4) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (5) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (6) Lewis, J. M. 2000. *The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby: Tenorial Evidence and Physical Structure*. British Archaeological Reports British Series Volume 310. Oxford.
- (7) Cowell R.W. and Philpott. R.A., 2000. *Prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval Settlement in Lowland North West England*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.

## Huyton

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SW / SJ 49 SE
NGR (centred):	Huyton SJ 442 910 Huyton Hey SJ 449 905 Huyton Park SJ 440 905
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Huyton
Geology:	The solid geology of the township is sandstone and coal measures. This is completely overlain with boulder clay and some sands and gravels.
Historic Core:	The settlement grew up on the slightly higher land around St. Michael's Church on Huyton Lane.
Origin of Name:	Hitune (1086). Landing place (1). From Old English <i>hyp-tūn</i> ). Hutona (1189), Hutton (1268), Huyton (1311) (1).
Topography:	A fairly flat township around 30m, the church of St Michael "stands on high ground in the north west of the village, the ground falling from it on all sides" (2). The River Alt flows through the township in the north, and is artificially coursed as part of the drainage system in the centre of the township. It is assumed that the landing place must have been on the River Alt (3).
History:	This is thought to be one of the earliest pre-conquest sites in the district of Knowsley (4). In the pre-conquest period the parish of Huyton was held half by Uctred and half by Dot (2), by the time of Domesday it was recorded as being held by Dot. After the conquest the parish was divided into Huyton Hey and Wofall. Wofall passed in sections to the barons of Halton, and through them to the Lathom family. From them it passed by marriage to the Harrington family (holders of Huyton Hey), and it remained in that family until the eighteenth century (2). From them it passed to the Molyneux and then to the Unsworth families (2). From the mid-thirteenth century there are records of permission being granted for ridings or clearance of woodland for agriculture (5), although areas of woodland remained until at least the thirteenth century (4). Map evidence suggests former medieval open fields to the east and west of the historic core (4). Following the opening of the railway the area became a very desirable place to live, and this led to the construction of Victorian villas in the township, "the little green has very much an estate-village character, and Huyton is indeed very close to

Knowsley. There are a large number of Victorian villas amid leafage and extending beyond that are Liverpool housing estates of 1932 etc” (6).

Present landmarks:

Huyton Hey moated manor house (medieval), held by the Harrington family in the fourteenth century. St Michael’s Church (sixteenth century) is much altered in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is of red sandstone and has a perpendicular tower and a seventeenth century hammerbeam roof (6). “Being built of local red sandstone, which weathers badly, it has been almost entirely re-faced in modern times, and shows no ancient work outside, except some rubble masonry at the north west angle” (2). The church is thought to have early origins; the large, circular sandstone font is thought to be eighth or ninth century (7). The Hazels (1764) in the north of the township is a brick house previously incorporated into the C.F, Mott College, and now part of a business park (6; 2). A nearby waymarker is extant on Prescott Road. Hurst House (c.1830) in the north west of the township is a red ashlar house (6; 2). This building is thought to be a rebuild of an earlier manor house on the site (8). The building is now in use as a golf clubhouse. Huyton Hall (c.1830-50) was the first building on the Orchard estate. It now forms part of Huyton College (9). There are many other Victorian villas nearby including Greenhill (1854-61)

Historic landmarks

Woolfall Hall (sixteenth century) demolished in the 1960s. (10) A watermill (Post-medieval) is recorded on mapping of Huyton and Knowsley 1777, the Earl of Derby’s estate map of 1785 and Huyton Tithe map 1830.

Early Activity:

Two spot-finds of Neolithic axes have been found in the south of the township. (10) A Romano-British coin was also located in the township, although the exact location of the find and the location of the coin now are unknown. (10) Agriculture is thought to have been one of the main land-uses in the medieval period in this township. Calculations suggest that around 13% of land was turned over to agriculture by the eleventh century (11). This is evidenced on the ground through the survival of ridge and furrow adjacent to the east of the settlement core.

Significant Post-Med Activity:

Several post-medieval cottages survive around the settlement core and Huyton Park. A post-medieval barn stands in the area of Huyton Hey. A post-medieval dovecot is recorded as having stood in the south of the township in the eighteenth century. (10). A colliery mineshaft (late eighteenth – early nineteenth century), a quarry, and a limekiln, and a tileworks are all marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6” OS map of 1850 in the

east of the township, reflecting the industrial nature of the township in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Huyton Park – Victorian Villa development along The Orchard and Blacklow Brow.  
Huyton Hey

Maps:

Huyton and Knowsley 1777 (LRO DDK 170/4)  
Knowsley Estate Map of the Earl of Derby 1785  
Huyton Tithe Map 1830 (LRO DRL 1/39)  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 107. Surveyed 1845-7. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
- (2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (3) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Cowell, R. 1982. *Knowsley Rural Fringes Survey Report*. Merseyside County Museums. Liverpool.
- (6) Pevsner, N. 1969. *The Buildings of South Lancashire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (7) Hault, J. 1913. *West Derby, Old Swan and Wavertree – Historical and Topographical*.
- (8) Twycross, E. 1847. *The Mansions of England and Wales*. Vol 3: The Hundred of West Derby and Salford.
- (9) Andrew, G and Colwell, W. 1980. *Beautiful Huyton with Roby*.
- (10) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (11) Lewis, J. 2000. *The Medieval Earthworks of the Hundred of West Derby*. British Archaeological Reports 310. Oxford.

## Kirkby

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 NW
NGR:	Kirkby (west) SJ 402 991 (east) SJ 410 988 Little Briton SJ 423 976
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Kirkby
Geology:	The geology of this township is very mixed with some bunter sandstone outcropping, and boulder clay and sands overlaying this in most of the township
Historic Core:	Kirkby evolved as a linear development along Kirkby Row. In the late nineteenth century development continued to the north of the railway line.
Origin of Name:	Cherchebi (1086). The church village (1). From Old Norse <i>kirkiu-býr</i> (1). Karkebi (1186), Kierkebi (1207), Kyrkeby (1288) (1).
Topography:	A fairly flat township around 30m with a slope up to the west in the historic core. The low-lying area in the east of the township is mossland, now much drained and used for agriculture. The prevalence of waterways in the township is evidenced in the five historic bridges within the township. The River Alt, leading to Knowsley Brook borders the township in the west. A railway line cuts through the north of the township.
History:	The township was held by Uctred pre-conquest, and at that time was combined with Simonswood (2). At Domesday it was recoded as being in the control of Uctred, and was part of the hundred of West Derby (3). It was passed to Richard, son of Roger of Woodplumpton in 1176, from him it passed to his daughter Margaret, who gave it to Stanlawe Abbey. When she died without children the donation was deemed "inoperative" and the manor was claimed by her sisters (2). From them it was divided, corresponding to the two manors: Kirkby Gerrard and Kirkby Beetham, these passed to Sir Robert de Stockport and Sir Ralph de Beetham respectively. Sir Robert's share passed to Robert de Byron, and from him to William Gerard. Sir Ralph's share was forfeited to the crown after the battle of Bosworth. In 1565 Sir Richard Molyneaux of Sefton bought the Gerard's share of the township, and in 1596 he acquired the other part from Thomas Stanley. It descended from him to the Earl of Sefton, in whose family it remained until the nineteenth century (2). In 1337 John of Kirkby

was granted a licence to empark 500 acres of land in Kirkby, which is thought to have been to the south east of the hall. The mossland of the west of the township was recorded in 1596 as in use for common grazing (3). It was gradually enclosed for agricultural use. The Molyneux estate map of 1769 shows enclosure of common land by dashed lines.

Present landmarks:

St Chad's church (1869-71). The Victorian Red sandstone structure replaced a red brick Georgian chapel. It is of gothic style with some Norman detail (3). The dedication to St Chad and the curvilinear churchyard point to a pre-conquest origin, possibly in the period of St Chad, the Bishop of Lichfield (Mercia) in the seventh century, or possibly earlier (3; 4; 5). The church itself may, therefore pre-date the Norse placename for the township (6). The church is described as, "ancient" and of "unknown origin" in the Victoria County History (2). The early history is difficult to trace as, "practically nothing is known of this chapel previous to the reformation" (2). Vicarage (1848) is of red sandstone (3). The stone for these buildings and their predecessors could be local sandstone, and there was once a quarry to the north of the original settlement core.

Historic landmarks:

Kirkby Hall (Post-medieval) was a brick-built structure. It was demolished in the 1960s (7). A watermill (medieval) to the north of the settlement core is now evidenced in the field by a grassy mound. It is also denoted on early maps through fieldnames, and the road name, Mill Lane still survives. It was demolished in the 1950s (7). A windmill (nineteenth century or earlier) is recorded cartographically as having stood on Delf Lane. School (Post-medieval) built on the glebe, which was burnt down in the eighteenth century, was replaced by school built by the Earl of Sefton (1866); now also destroyed (7).

Early Activity:

A concentration of struck flint has been identified in the mossland area in the east of the township of Kirkby (5) A 1995 excavation at the vicarage aimed at locating the early medieval chapel of St Chad has revealed Bronze Age site, which included evidence of a structure, charcoal, small quantities of Bronze Age pottery, and stone tools (8). This site may also explain the Bronze socketed axe found to the east near Kirkby Row, and the undated Bronze spearhead found in churchyard in late nineteenth century. (9). Pollen analysis suggests that in the early medieval period the township was densely wooded. Documentary evidence is present for assarting in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (10). Kirkby developed

common open-field agriculture in the medieval period (5).

**Significant Post-Med Activity:** The township was primarily rural with dispersed settlement until the twentieth century. The importance of agriculture is evidenced in the number of farms and cottages recorded as having stood in the post-medieval period (36 farms, 19 cottages) (10). Post-medieval pottery has been found during field-walking in the east of the township.

**Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:** Little Britain, named after the inn, the Little Briton. Ingewaith (Ingoe Lane) (6). Documentary evidence of settlement of now lost name, Aynesargh (6).

**Maps:** Molyneux Manorial Survey Estate Map 1696 (unknown LRO ref.).  
Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/33).  
Kirkby Tithe Map 1839 (LRO DRL 1/43).  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 99. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25" OS map. Surveyed 1891. Published 1893.

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(2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster*. Volume Three. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.  
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(5) Cowell, R.W. and Innes, J.B. 1994. *The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster University Archaeology Unit. Lancaster.  
(6) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society* Vol. II.  
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(8) Adams, M. 1995. *An Early-Middle Bronze Age Settlement Site at St Chad's Vicarage, Kirkby, Merseyside*. National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. Liverpool.  
(9) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.  
(10) Cowell, R. 1982. *Knowsley Rural Fringes Survey Report*. Merseyside County Museums. Liverpool.

## Knowsley

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SW
NGR (centred):	Knowsley SJ 434 959 Woodfall Heath SJ 431 922 Stockbridge SJ 432 927 Stockbridge Farm SJ 429 932 'Lime Grove' SJ 451 924
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Knowsley
Geology:	The south of the township has some coal measures, much of which is overlain by boulder clay. There is some sand present in the north of the township.
Historic Core:	The settlement core lay to the north-west of the park, around St Mary's Church. The township has been dominated by the park since the early post-medieval period.
Origin of Name:	Chenulueslei (1086). From Old English personal name <i>Cenulfes</i> and <i>leah</i> , meaning meadow field (1). Alternatively Old English <i>cnoll</i> , meaning hillock (2). Cnueleu (1189), Knuvesle (1199), Knouwesley (1246) (1).
Topography:	A gently undulating township with a high point in Knowsley Park of 97m AOD. White Man's Dam, a man-made lake sits in the park in the centre of the township. The park sits on higher land, and commands views of the surrounding land, and across to the Mersey and to North Wales. The M57 motorway curves around the south west of the township. The eastern border of the township was defined by a line of boundary stones which ran approximately north-south through the area now used as Knowsley Safari Park.
History:	The manor is recorded as being held by Uctred at Domesday (3), when it was recorded as part of the Hundred of West Derby. The Lathom family held the manor by c.1200, but how and when they acquired it is unknown. It was used as a hunting seat (3). The earliest reference to dedicated parkland in Knowsley is in 1292, when Robert de Latham is recorded as having, "certain wood that his father enclosed with paling" (4). The Stanleys controlled the manor from the fourteenth century into the nineteenth century. The settlement developed fairly slowly, the township being dominated by the park (5). The dispersed nature of settlement and the agricultural economy is indicated by the number of

post-medieval to modern farms and cottages recorded as standing or having stood across the township (62 farms; 46 cottages). The medieval layout of the park has been lost, possibly because of post-medieval landscaping (4). The mossland in the north east of the township was recorded as being in use for common grazing in 1596 (4).

Present landmarks:

Knowsley Hall (seventeenth century) is a grand stone and brick building. The estate became the land of the Stanleys in the fourteenth century, but Lathom House (Lancashire, fifteenth century) remained the family's seat until the Civil War. The earliest section of the current building may date to c.1500, but much is of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (6; 7). The park was officially formed in the medieval period, with a record of 1337 recording a licence to empark for John of Kirkby. Associated with the hall in the landscaped park are a folly, statues and deer sheds.

St Leonard's, Ridding Chapel or the Ancient Chapel (twelfth century or possibly earlier) at the south end of Knowsley Park stands in the south of the township. St Mary's Church (1843-4) in the centre of the settlement core is a Victorian chapel which follows sixteenth-century style (6).

School (1845) is a symmetrical red sandstone building.

Historic landmarks:

Tithe Barn (c.1720) stood on Tithebarn Road. Windmill (eighteenth century or earlier) stood to the west of the settlement core, at the north-west corner of Knowsley Park. There is also watermill recorded in the medieval period (5).

Old School House (post-medieval) formerly Knowsley Boys School. It is to the north west of the settlement core. It was previously a chapel, and it's most recent use is as cottages (7). The boys' school moved in the late eighteenth century to a brick building funded by Lord Derby, now also converted to cottages.

"Six almshouses (1883), a parish hospital (1899) and a recreation ground were gifts of the Stanley family" (3).

Early Activity:

A Mesolithic flint scatter has been identified to the east of the settlement core near the edge of the park, with a possible second one at the eastern edge of Knowsley Moss Park (8). A Bronze Age perforated stone adze head was found 1930 in the far south west of the township (9). A medieval pottery scatter was discovered in the centre of the township in the west of the landscaped park. (10)

Significant Post-Med Activity: There are numerous post-medieval buildings in the township, and post-medieval pottery has been discovered in the east of the landscape park. Post-medieval industry included quarrying, clay extraction

and brick-making, all of which is evidenced in the buildings as well as the below ground archaeology (4). The most recent feature is an anti-aircraft battery in Stockbridge village.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: Woodfall, Lyme Grove, Stockbridge

Maps: 'The Mansion House of Knowsley in ye Demesne and Park thereunto belonging.' Knowsley late seventeenth century (Knowsley Hall collection no. 35).  
'Ancient Plans of Knowsley Park' 1726 (Knowsley Hall collection no. 286). Huyton and Knowsley 1777 (LRO DDK 170/4).  
A survey with maps of the estate of the right honourable Edward Earl of Derby' 1785 (Knowsley Hall collection no. 161).  
Estate Map for Richard Seddon 1805 (LRO 920 PLU 23).  
Knowsley Tithe Map 1847 (LRO DRL 1/45).  
1st Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 107. Surveyed 1845-7. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names. Oxford University Press. London. 4th ed.
- (2) Mills, D. 1976. The Place names of Lancashire. Batsford. London.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (5) Cowell, R. 1982. Knowlsey Rural Fringes Survey Report. Merseyside County Museums. Liverpool.
- (6) Pevsner, N. 1969. The Buildings of South Lancashire. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (7) Pollard, W. 1868. The Stanleys of Knowsley.
- (8) Cowell, R.W. and Innes, J.B. 1994. The Wetlands of Merseyside. Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. Lancaster.
- (9) Carter, C. 1930. Perforated Adze Head from SW Lancs. The Naturalist no 880.
- (10) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Prescot

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SE
NGR (centred):	Prescot SJ 465 927 Churchly, east of Prescot's historic core
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Prescot
Geology:	The solid geology consists of middle coal measures, carboniferous sandstone. Drift geology consists of boulder clay except at the east part of the township where there two areas of glacial sands and gravels. Peat mosses occur in the area north of the High Street.
Historic Core:	<p>The original settlement core of Prescot based on Bailey's reconstruction of the topography of the town was focused on the church site with the main thoroughfares running east from the church, such as the modern named Kemble Street and Eccleston Street with the former heading east to Wigan and the latter to Warrington. The modern High Street once known as Fazakerley Street also ran west to Huyton then onto Liverpool. Many houses clustered around the church wall with the market square set out in front of the dwellings south east of the church. A hunting park was sited within the demesne lands south of the Church grounds. The earliest reference to burgage plots is 1537 (1), which were mainly focused around the principal medieval streets.</p> <p>There was potentially a second settlement to the east known as Churchly. The first mention of Churchly appears in a grant of 1286, which mentioned a Richard de Churchlie grants land in the villa de Churchlie to his son. It seams in the latter part of the medieval period the place name Churchly was falling out of use, in fact by 1387 a document refers to lands that formerly called Churchlegh and were then called Prestecote (1). It is not possible to establish the geographical extent of the eastern part of Prescot, known as Churchly. Even though the early documents indicate to it being separate to that of Prescot one could surmise that it grew up around the original settlement, and that the because the place name fell out of use, indicates to it being fully incorporated into the town. However, Churchley did survive in field names up to the nineteenth century (1).</p>
Origin of Name:	Priests cottage (OE) preost + cot = prestecota 1178 AD (Latin) = Prescote 1440. 'Cot' in this instance may

suggest parsonage, it has been suggested that the name indicates the portion of Whiston Township, which was separated as an endowment for the church at Eccleston Township nearby (2). Ekwall suggests that Prescott is a small township, which was cut off from Whiston as a manor for the rectory (3)

Topography:

The settlement lies on a sandstone ridge, reaching 81 metres AOD at its peak. There is a steep fall to the Prescott Brook in the west, and more gradual falls to the north and south (4).

History:

The earliest reference to Prescott is 1178 AD (5). However, there are certain features that suggest an earlier date of the origin of the settlement; a circular graveyard sited on a hill with a holy well, which are typical features of a pre-conquest church. The pre-conquest origins of the parish system for this area also indicate Prescott to be early in date (1). Its close proximity to Eccleston (meaning 'Church town', and of British origin, 2), is suggestive of a pre-conquest early British Christian community as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest reference to a vicarage is in 1445 and for a market to be held in 1333 (1).

The small size of the township in comparison to other townships in the region also indicates to annexation of an adjoining township possibly to create an ecclesiastical manor.

Prescot Hall (demolished 1930's & site occupied by BICC cable factory) was first mentioned in 1453, where a document states that the hall was let to Thomas Stanley, Earl of Derby (5). It was rebuilt in 1562 and then in 1568 leased to John Layton of Prescott. Later medieval documents suggest that a formal hunting park called Prescott Park was situated at the western end of the township bounded by the brook to the west Vicar's Close and Near Bothom's to the east, and Wood Hei and the Vicar's land on the north, it further bounded in the south by Rie field (1).

Analysis of sixteenth century documents gives an idea of the occupation of the town and Edge's 1743 plan shows the principal lay out of church and streets. Some expansion has occurred by the 1847 Tithe Map. By 1850 to the west of the church complex in the form of a pottery works, tanning yard, market gardens and a bowling green; to the north and north east part of the settlement- another pottery works, a gas works and further market gardens are present. In the south part of the town another complex of market gardens were established. Surprisingly no major expansion is visible for the period between the historic mapping of the 1850 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 6" map and OS 25" Epoch 1 map of 1893. There was some expansion to the south east and east of the town. In the south east part of the town light

engineering works were established along with a railway station and works to accommodate the new railway line built 1871 running from Huyton to St Helens. A printing works became established in the east part of the town in the area north of Warrington Road. By 1908 a tram line was established from Huyton and ran along the High Street to Whiston. There was an expansion of industry in the southern area with plots defined for further expansion. A sewage works sprang up in the south west part of the town in the area which was once the demesne land. The last noticeable expansion of the settlement is noticeable by the 1927 historic mapping; there was a large expansion of the cable works south of Prescott Station, which was coupled with an increase in terrace housing. Further expansion of the town boundaries occurred to the west and north for terrace housing and recreational grounds. The earliest reference to the horological industry was as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century (8). Churchwardens' accounts for Prescott Parish contain entries for a fee paid to individuals for the repair of the church clock and bells.

- Present Landmarks: St Mary's church - medieval origins. Also vicarage Place Prescott Museum, 18<sup>th</sup> Century former house, Church Street.  
Some surviving timber framed buildings Buildings associated with the watch making industry (see below)
- Historic Landmarks: Site of trade centre bounded by Albany Road on the west, Olivier Lyme Road on the south and Greenwood coast on the north. (5 ).  
Prescot Watch Factory, which later became Printing Works in 1927; site is bounded by Houghton Road on the west, Kemble Street on the south and Warrington Road on the east (5).  
Site of Windmill, Pottery Works and associated New Road field; works demolished and replaced with terraced housing during late the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. (5)  
Site of the medieval Old Prescott Hall situated on the edge Prescott Cable Works factory west of Hall Lane. It was demolished in the 1930's during the development of the British Cable Company works but elements of the hall (5).
- Early Activity: There is not a lot of evidence for prehistoric activity in Prescott, with the exception of the discovery of a peat deposit in the Warrington Road area, during development, adjacent to the old Prescott Moss (6). Pollen analysis of the upper part of the peat yielded high levels of cereal pollen, suggesting the area had been brought under cultivation. Indications of forest disturbance near the base of the peat deposit give the

impression of long standing human activity in the area from at least the Neolithic Period onwards. There is no evidence for occupation of the area during the Roman Period but this could be expected for a settlement that is confined to a small geographical area and has seen intensive human activity in subsequent periods, which would likely eradicate any evidence of earlier activity. However, the Pre-conquest origin of St Mary's Church does suggest an early Christian settlement (as previously mentioned). The Later Medieval Period is well attested both archaeologically and through documentary evidence (1).

**Significant Post-Med Activity:** There are sixteenth century documents that refer to Churchly field as 'Churchley townfield', which is suggestive of an open field system in operation at that time (1). However, by 1592 the field system had been enclosed (1). Much of the medieval character of the town was replaced in the seventeenth century (8) which is still well represented to date, such as the timber framed houses on the High Street, numbers 21, 23, and 30 and the sandstone cottage to the rear 33 Eccleston Street. The town was then virtually rebuilt during the eighteenth century but there are instances where elements of earlier structures were incorporated into later developments, such as at 25 and 27 High Street (7). The 1978 survey of Prescott conducted by Peter Davy identified many boundaries that persisted along earlier lines such as the large sandstone wall along the northern boundary with Eccleston, which is seventeenth century or earlier (7). The economy of Prescott settlement does not conform to other settlements within the region in that most settlements from the Medieval Period were mainly agriculturally based, whereas Prescott's economy likely reflected its geographic limitations. During the post-medieval period only 19 percent of people living in the township were directly associated with agriculture (8). Occupations varied from small scale artisans, craftsmen, and victuallers. Cloth manufacturers, finishers, weavers, shoe and glove makers, grocers were all common during the first half of the seventeenth century. Watch making became established during the seventeenth century and developed rapidly throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These workshops were located throughout the town with concentrations on Atherton Street, Chapel, Kemble Street and Eccleston Street. The majority of surviving houses and workshops date to the end eighteenth century. This small domestic workshop based industry thrived up to the 1860s (8). The industry went into decline during the latter part of the nineteenth century because it could not compete with the mass produced Swiss and American clock and watch imports. A reaction to this competition and an attempt to retain its

international predominance of the industry was the creation of the Lancashire Watch Company in 1888-9, which was styled on the large American factory utilising modern machinery and employing over a 1000 people. The venture failed and the factory closed in 1910. Other relatively important industries for Prescott were the pottery and sail making industries. Potters were documented from as early as 1577 in the Court Leet (1). Potters were mainly manufactured coarse earthenware, which thrived during the eighteenth and first part of the nineteenth century, and three pottery works were still visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. OS map of 1850. However, by 1860 production at all pottery works had ceased. Sail Making was important to Prescott throughout eighteenth and nineteenth centuries but the emergence of steam powered shipping sent the industry into decline.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Churchly

Maps:

Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5).  
Greenwood 1818 West Derby Hundred (LRO DDPR 144/11).  
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO.)  
Prescot Tithe Map 1847 (LRO DRL 1/65.)  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 6" Lancashire Sheet 107, published 1850 (surveyed 1845-7).

References:

- (1) Philpott. R.A., 1988. *Historic Towns of Merseyside Area: A Survey of Urban settlement to c.1800*. Liverpool Museum Occasional Papers No.3.
- (2) Mills D., 1976. *The Place Names of Lancashire*. Batsford.
- (3) Ekwall E., 1922. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.
- (4) Cowell, R. W. and Innes, J.B., 1994. *The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. Lancaster.
- (6 new 5) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.
- (6) Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society, Vol. 9. 1999.
- (7) Davy P., 1978. *Prescot Action Area: An Archaeological Overview*. University of Liverpool/Archaeological Survey of Merseyside. Liverpool.
- (8) Buckridge. M.L., *Horological Workshops, Phase 1: Prescott*. Prescott Museum.

## **Roby**

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SW
NGR (centred):	SJ 432 905 (west) SJ 428 905 (east) SJ 434 905
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Roby
Geology:	The solid geology of the township is Triassic Sandstone, which outcrops in a few small areas, but is mostly overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	The settlement is a linear development along Roby Road, centred on the junction with Station Road (formerly Twig Lane) and Carr Lane. Excavations in the present core suggest that it lies upon the late medieval core (1). Roby was granted Borough status in 1372, suggesting nucleated settlement by the late fourteenth century, and there is map and fieldname evidence to the north of the settlement of open field agriculture, which is the other indicator of medieval nucleated settlement (1).
Origin of Name:	Rabil (1086). Landmark or boundary line, relating to its position on the border of Childwall. From Old Scandinavian <i>rā</i> . Rabi (1185), Raby (1238) (2).
Topography:	A flat township around 35m AOD. A railway line runs across the north of the settlement and the M62 motorway runs through the south west of the township. The area of Bowring Park in the south of the township includes places of the name Carr, this was formerly common land, and was reclaimed from marshy land. The area is linked to Roby's historic settlement core by Carr Lane, a medieval track, now used as a footpath.
History:	The township is recorded as being held by Uctred at Domesday (3), when it is recorded as part of the West Derby hundred (1). In the early fourteenth century the lords "endeavoured to raise the standing of the township" (3). In 1304 a charter was granted by the king allowing a weekly market and annual fair in Roby (3). In 1338 Thomas de Lathom is recorded as having had licence to empark in Roby (1). A park is marked on the 1785 estate map, and the 1849 Tithe map. The shape of the park as recorded in these documents may represent a post-medieval expansion, as the boundaries are more rectangular and regular than the usual curvilinear form of a medieval park (1). In 1372 Sir Thomas de Lathom granted a charter making Roby

a free borough, and each burgess was given a rood of land as a burgage. A fee of 12d was owed annual to the lord for this (3).

Present landmarks: St Bartholomew's Church (1875) is a rebuild of an 1850 church. An early font and bell suggest a previous church on this site.  
Roby Cross (medieval) stands near the settlement core, but only the base and shaft remain.  
Roby Farm (late-eighteenth / early-nineteenth century) is marked on the tithe map of 1849.  
Turnpike Toll Cottage/Roby Tollhouse (eighteenth century) is a brick-built cottage with a steeply pitched roof, which was used to collect tolls on the Liverpool to Prescot Road.

Historic landmarks: Roby Old Hall (late eighteenth-century) replaced a sixteenth-century hall on the site (3). It was a brick building in Georgian style. It was demolished in the 1940s but some of its outbuildings still stand. The house was set within a park, but it is not known whether this was established with the house in the eighteenth century, or if it is a remnant of the medieval park (1). The land now forms Bowring Park.  
Court Hey (1836) stood on the site which now houses the National Wildflower Centre, and its stables are still in use. The building was a sandstone house with classical features. It was demolished in 1956 after a period when it fell into disrepair.  
Windmill (post-medieval) stood on the common land of Roby Carr. (4)

Early Activity: Two spot find of a flint arrowheads have been made in the township, one in the 1920s. One is tanged and barbed and both are thought to be Bronze Age. (4)

Significant Post-Med Activity: Early industry is evidenced through the lost smithy and quarry in the township, all marked on the 1849 tithe map.  
Bowring Park in the south of the township was gifted to the City of Liverpool by Alderman William Benjamin Bowring JP in 1907. It is now used as a municipal golf course.  
Anti-aircraft battery (Second World War) is extant in Childwall Valley. (4)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None identified

Maps: Derby Estate Map 1785 (Knowsley Hall collection no. 161).  
Roby Tithe Map 1849 (LRO DRL 1/69).

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 107. Surveyed 1845-7. Published 1850.

References:

- (1) Lewis, J. and Cowell, R. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (2) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.
- (3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.
- (4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Simonswood

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SD 40 SW / SJ 49 NW
NGR:	No nucleated settlement sourced
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Simonswood
Geology:	The solid geology in this township is completely overlain with areas of boulder clay, sands, and peats. The township is still dominated in the east by mossland.
Historic Core:	Medieval nucleated settlements never developed in Simonswood (1). A dispersed settlement pattern continued into the post-medieval period.
Origin of Name:	Simonddeswode (1190). From Old English <i>Sigemundes wudu</i> , meaning wood belonging to Simond (2). Simundeswod (1297) (2).
Topography:	A fairly flat township around 45m height. There are several areas of plantation and woodland around the township.
History:	Simonswood was not listed in the Domesday Book. The first written documentation about the township is noted in the Victoria County History, "Simonswood was taken into the forest after the coronation of Henry II" "in 1228 [it was] declared that it ought to be disafforested and restored to the heirs of Richards son of Roger, lords of the vill of Kirkby" (3). In 1507 it was granted to William Molyneux, and the township remained in the Molyneux family until the nineteenth century (3).
Present landmarks:	Simonswood Hall (1687) is an asymmetrical stone manor house, now used as a farm (4). The present building is seventeenth century, but the oval enclosure and the location of the hall could point to an earlier origin (5).
Historic landmarks:	There was no nucleated settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods, and evidence is lacking for medieval settlement of any form, although the township is unlikely to have been devoid of settlement. The township was royal forest from the reign of Henry III until the early sixteenth century (5). In 1507 it was described as, "waste ground ... overgrown with wood of little or no value and watery or Moorish and mossy ground with little or no grass on it", but by the mid-eighteenth century the land was cleared and enclosed. In 1769, 14 'ancient' tenements are listed (3). At this

time the mossland in the east is extant, with 498 acres still unenclosed, but some areas of 'new intake' are marked, recording the gradual enclosure of this land for agricultural use (5). Several woodland plantations were established in the nineteenth century.

Early Activity:

The palaeo-ecological analysis of Simonswood Moss has revealed evidence for phases of clearance of woodland at 5440 +/- 160 BP, 2730 +/-100 BP and 790-257 BC. Evidence for the cultivation of crops in this area start around 1000BP, but through the medieval period records show eras of limited or no human activity as well as periods of farming (1). Flint scatters have been found during field-walking in the north of the township up to a kilometre to the east of Simonswood Hall. Romano-British coins discovered in Simonswood Brook in the late nineteenth century. (6)

Significant Post-Med Activity:

Several post-medieval farms, cottages, barns and houses survive in the township. The township was sparsely inhabited and predominantly agricultural until the nineteenth century. The maps from Yates' map of 1786 to the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map show scattered settlement in the township. Following woodland clearance in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the maps show gradual reclamation of the moss for agricultural use. There is evidence of nineteenth-century industrial activity. Medieval and post-medieval pottery scatter found in field-walking in the north of the township. The mossland in the east of the township was drained in the nineteenth century for use for shooting (1). The area remained woodland in the Post-medieval period, and is marked on Blair's map of 1645 as a wooded area.

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

None identified

Maps:

Blair's Map of Lancashire 1645  
Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DDM 14/48)  
Yates W. Map of Lancashire 1786 (LRO DR 179/5).  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 100. Surveyed 1849. Published 1850.

References:

(1) Cowell, R. W. and Innes, J.B. 1994. *The Wetlands of Merseyside*. Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. Lancaster.  
(2) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
(3) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.

- (4) Pevsner, N. 1969. *The Buildings of South Lancashire*. Penguin. Harmondsworth.
- (5) Lewis, J. and Cowell, R. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.
- (6) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Tarbock

Urban/Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ48 NE
NGR (centred):	SJ 459 876 (west) & Tarbock Green (east) SJ464 876
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Tarbock
Geology:	The solid geology is comprised of upper mottled sandstone, which is completely overlain by boulder clay except Ditton Brook area where the sandstone is overlain by marine and estuarine alluvium
Historic Core:	<p>The settlement core for Tarbock is one of a linear nucleated settlement that was focused along the modern named Netherley Road, north part of Greensbridge Lane and the Tarbock Green area of Water Lane. This area now known as Tarbock Green, based on cartographic observation probably developed originally as dispersed farmsteads on the edges of the demesne land to Tarbock Hall, and by the 1769 Molyneux estate survey had started to develop into a village. By the nineteenth century a brewery was established within the village area and coal working, quarrying and brick tiles works had been established to the north in the Tarbock Road /Whitefield Lane area.</p> <p>Tarbock is similar to Halewood in settlement pattern; there is no evidence to suggest that an open field system was utilised and that it is mainly made up of dispersed farmsteads (1). Though Tarbock was not documented as being part of the 'Royal Forest' it does not mean that the area was not heavily wooded, and the fact there were four known moated sites in the township (1), all originating from the medieval period, adds further weight to the thinking that township developed through assarting and eventual disafforestation. However, another possibility, as may be the case with Halewood is that the evidence of enclosed land and dispersed settlement is reflecting an earlier field management system to that of open field system (1).</p>
Origin of Name:	Torboc (1086), Thor's brook (2). From OE personal name <i>Thor</i> or <i>Thori</i> and <i>Brōc</i> (2). Torbok (1257), Torbroke (1311), Thorboc (1243) (2) (3)
Topography:	Tarbock is a low-lying gently undulating landscape

History:	<p>The manor of Tarbock was documented to be held by Dot in 1066 AD then became part of the Widnes fee and was held by the barons of Halton. By the latter part of twelfth century, Richard son of Henry de Lathom was established in Tarbock as lord of Knowsley (4), who established a market and animal fair by 1256 AD. His father Henry de Lathom had secured the right to enclose his wood and have free park and beasts of the forest in Tarbock in 1243 AD (4). Henry de Lathom became lord of the manor 1283 AD; he established a chapel in Tarbock around this date, the location has never been established but documents and field name evidence indicate to be close to Tarbock Hall. There is much in family dispute over heirship to the Tarbock seat. By 1611 AD the family were overcome by debt and sold Tarbock to Thomas Sutton. Tarbock was then purchased by Sir Richard Molyneux in 1614 AD for £10,000.</p>
Present Landmarks:	<p>Medieval site of Tarbock Hall and moat. The once moated site of Georgeson's farm. Motorway extension A5300 that skirts the eastern end of the township. Ox Lane a medieval road. Old Post Office and Smithy, at the junction of Greenbridge Lane and Netherley Road. (5)</p>
Historic Landmarks:	<p>Medieval moated sites of Peel Hey and Cross Hillocks, a watermill west of Georgeson's Farm. A corn mill was sited somewhere in the vicinity of Netherley Road and Whitefield Road. There was also a private chapel of Henry de Lathom. (5)</p>
Early Activity:	<p>There is plenty of evidence of prehistoric activity within the landscape of Tarbock. The concentration of activity is situated to the east side of the township and focused near water courses along Ditton Brook and Ochre Brook, which is consistent with Halewood where similar prehistoric sites have been noted (6). Sites situated around Ochre Brook and Brunt Boggart and further south at Ditton Brook all showed evidence of activity from Mesolithic to medieval occupation but with little evidence of occupation during the early post-Roman Period. This is a repeated pattern as in Halewood, which may reflect a shift or decline in population. The isolated nature of these sites is consistent with later periods, such as at some medieval farmsteads like Brunt Boggart and Daggars Bridge Farm, which showed continuity of settlement from the Romano-British Period to Medieval Period with prehistoric activity with the near vicinity (6). There are also two known medieval hunting parks in Tarbock. The bounds of one of these parks were recorded in a charter dating to 1180 AD (6).</p>

Significant Post-Med Activity: The economy of Tarbock in present times is little different to that of early periods in that it is still reliant on agriculture. However, some industry did come to Tarbock during the Industrial Period near Coney Green hamlet in the way of brick and tile making quarrying and colliery works but these industries were small in nature and would have only had a small impact on increasing the population of the township. Post-medieval built farmsteads in Tarbock are still strongly represented in the landscape, and followed the isolated nature of earlier periods. In fact there is evidence of a relationship between a number of Post-medieval farmsteads with earlier documented Medieval farms, and fieldwalking has produced Medieval pottery scatters around such farms indicating the later farms have been sited on the sites of earlier farms (1).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None identified

Maps: Yates W. 1786 Map of Lancashire (LRO DR 179/5)  
Molyneux Estate Map 1769 (LRO DRL 1/78)  
Greenwood 1818 West Derby Hundred (LRO DDP 144/11).  
Hennet G. 1830 Map of Lancashire (LRO).  
1849 Tithe map (LRO DRL 1/78).  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS 6" Lancashire Sheet 114, published 1849 (surveyed 1845-46).

References: (1) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J., 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.  
(2) Ekwall E., 1922. *The Placenames of Lancashire*. Chetham Society. Manchester.  
(3) Mills D., 1976. *The Placenames of Lancashire*. Batsford.  
(4) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.  
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## Thingwall

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SW
NGR (centred):	SJ 411 909
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Thingwall
Geology:	The solid geology of this small township is completely overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core	None identified.
Origin of Name:	Tingwella (1177). Place where the 'thing' (assembly) met or meeting place (1) From old Norse <i>Pingvollr</i> (1). Thing well (1266), Thyngwall (1262), Tingewall (1297) (1).
Topography :	This small township is around 40m AOD height. The round, gently sloping hill on which Thingwall Hall now stands was possibly the site of the Thing.(1). The M62 motorway and the railway line now run through the south of the township.
History:	Thingwall is first recorded in 1177, when King John gave it to Richard, son of Thurstan. It passed to Richard, son of Thurstan. Hugh de Thingwall and his descendants came into ownership of the township (by 1289). In the fifteenth century, it was in the ownership of the Walton family (3). Ownership passed through various individuals to Thomas Crowther, a Liverpool merchant, who is recorded as living at the hall (known by then as Summerhill) in 1824. In 1845 the township was purchased by Samuel Thompson, and held in his family, until it was sold in 1899 to David Radcliffe. Historically the township has parts of various unions with adjacent townships and manors. It was part of the manor of West Derby, was ecclesiastically linked with Childwall, and formed part of the parish of Much Woolton. It was united with Huyton with Roby in 1877 (3).
Present landmarks	Thingwall Hall (nineteenth century) stands on high land in the centre of the township. In the nineteenth century it was known as Summerhill. The house became property of Belgian religious order, Brothers of Charity, around 1903, and it was used as a poor law school, known as St Edward's Home. The building suffered an arson attack in 2004.

Historic landmarks: None identified.

Early Activity: No evidence has been located for activity before the post-medieval period, however, surrounding townships all contain evidence for early activity (Bronze Age in Roby and Childwall; medieval in West Derby), so it is unlikely that this area was completely devoid of usage.

Significant Post-Med Activity: A sandpit is marked on the tithe map of 1840. A series of boundary stones evidence the agricultural nature of the township until the twentieth century. (4)

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation: None identified.

Maps: Thingwall Tithe Map 1840 (LRO DRL 1/93). 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 107. Surveyed 1845-7. Published 1850.

References: (1) Eckwall, E. 1960. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press. London. 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
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 (4) Merseyside Historic Environment Record documentation.

## Whiston

Rural Fringe Report:	Yes
OS Map Sheet:	SJ 49 SE
NGR (centred):	Whiston SJ 468 908 SJ 471 912 Whiston Cross
District:	Knowsley
Township:	Whiston
Geology:	The solid geology of the township is Triassic mottled sandstone and coal. This is completely overlain by boulder clay.
Historic Core:	At the junction of Dragons Lane, Windy Arbour Road and Greens Lane. Extended north of the railway line along Dragon Lane to area of Whiston Cross.
Origin of Name:	Quistan (1190). The white stone. From Old English <i>hwīt stān</i> (1). Wistan (1252), Whistan (1272) (1).
Topography:	This township slopes gently up to the east from around 40m AOD to around 65m AOD, towards Blundells Hill in Rainhill. The western boundary of the township is defined by Netherley Brook. Ochre brook runs north-south through the centre of the township in a broad, flat-bottomed shallow valley. The railway runs east-west across the centre of the township, and the M57 motorway runs north-south at its western edge.
History	The Travers family is recorded as holding the manor in the late twelfth century, and they continue into the seventeenth century (2). Through marriage the township passed to Jonathon Case of Huyton and by the beginning of the eighteenth century was held by Richard Willis, and it passed through his heirs into the nineteenth century (2). By 1651 Copped Holt, the common land had undergone some enclosure of the lands belonging to Thomas and Margaret Woods. Sheffield and Townfield were still partly open fields in the mid-seventeenth century, and as late as 1749 Townfield was still partly open (3).
Present landmarks	St Nicholas' Church (1864-8) is described by Pevsner as "an earnest work of architecture with nothing done just to please". It is built of yellow and red stone, incorporating some earlier features such as window tracery of c.1300 (4). Whiston Hospital (1842) was built as a workhouse, with associated chapel. This was part of a wider movement to build more workhouses following the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834. The building marked on the

1850 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map follows the standard cruciform plan for workhouses. The chapel is to the north-east corner (5).

#### Historic landmarks

Windmill (medieval) recorded in a documentary source in 1190. It stood near the present site of St Nicholas' Church. A watermill (post-medieval) stood on logwood mill brook to the south west of the settlement. (6).

Whiston Cross (medieval) stood at the crossroads of Dragon Lane and Stank Lane. (6).

Whiston Hall (medieval) stood to the north west of the settlement. It is rumoured to have been built in 1384-5, and was inhabited by the Lathom family. It was later used as a farmhouse. (6).

Halsnead Hall (eighteenth century), park is recorded as sparsely timbered in the early twentieth century (6).

The u-shaped range of stables still stands.

Almshouses (post-medieval, 1708 and later) stood to the north east of the township on Warrington Road.

Methodist Chapel (1832) in the settlement core, marked on 1850 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map (6).

#### Early Activity

Evidence of Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of Ochre Brook is a few fragments of worked flint. These Mesolithic flints represent the furthest known incursions inland from the Mersey in Merseyside. The types of artefacts suggest that some tool-working may have taken place here (cores, tertiary blades and flakes) and one possible scraper suggests longer stay (7). A Neolithic stone axe was found in the 1940s to the north east of the settlement core, it is now in the collection of World Museum Liverpool (HER). Romano British and medieval occupation has been revealed by excavations in the Tarbock area just to the south of Whiston (7).

**Significant Post-Med Activity:** Coal mining was an important industry from the early post-medieval period, with documentary records from the sixteenth century (3). Collieries, and associated machinery, such as a weighing machine are marked on the tithe map of 1842 and 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map of 1850. There are also quarries recorded on early maps of the township, evidence of another post-medieval industry (3). The coal mines were worked by both men and women (2). The archaeological remains of the colliery to the south east of junction six of the M62 motorway has been assessed (8). The western end of this complex coal mines lies in Whiston township. All structures associated with the colliery have been demolished, and only the concrete-capped mine shafts remained in 2003 (8). Historical evidence about the mining reveals that the industry developed in the early sixteenth century, and in the reign of Elizabeth I export to Ireland provided renewed markets for the coal, increasing output from around 300 tons a year in the late sixteenth century to around 1200 tons a year in the

early seventeenth century, and up again to nearly 4,000 tons a year in the second quarter of the seventeenth century (8). By the nineteenth century coal mining became a major industry in Lancashire, and these coal mines expanded to the north (8).

Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation:

Maps

Estate Map of James Gildart 1770 (LRO)  
Estate Map of Thomas Ashcroft 1780 (LRO)  
Estate Map of the land of Thomas Seddon 1805-6 (LRO 920 PLU 23).  
1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map Lancashire sheet 107. Surveyed 1845-7. Published 1850.

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(1) Mills, D. 1976. *The Place names of Lancashire*. Batsford. London.  
(2) Farrer W. and Brownbill J.A. 1907. *The Victoria History of the County Of Lancaster. Volume Three*. Archibald Constable & Company Limited. London.  
(3) Cowell R.W. and Lewis J. 2002. *The Archaeology of a Changing Landscape: The Last Thousand Years in Merseyside*. Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society Vol. II.  
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## Settlement studies pro-forma key

<i>Rural/ Urban Fringe Report:</i>	Refers to inclusion in the 1980's series of reports reviewing the archaeology of Merseyside's rural fringes. Only Wirral had a report covering some urban areas
<i>OS Map Sheet:</i>	Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet e.g. SJ28NE
<i>NGR (centred)</i>	Current National Grid Reference locator to 6 figures
<i>District:</i>	Local authority administrative area i.e. Wirral
<i>Township:</i>	Historic township i.e. Barnston
<i>Geology:</i>	Solid and drift geology
<i>Historic Core:</i>	Where relevant and identifiable from the key historic map source (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map sheet Lancashire or Cheshire). Location by current street names. Where possible, identification of likely earliest settlement
<i>Origin of Name:</i>	Etymological origins for the place name
<i>Topography:</i>	Generally within township area
<i>History:</i>	General to the township area / historic family ownership ownership in medieval and post-medieval periods.
<i>Present landmarks:</i>	Generally some extant sites and areas (in accordance with HER sources)
<i>Historic landmarks:</i>	Generally some former sites and areas subsequently developed (from HER sources)
<i>Early Activity:</i>	Generally including evidence from the prehistoric to the medieval periods (from HER sources).
<i>Significant Post-Med Activity:</i>	Generally including evidence from the post-medieval onwards (from HER sources)
<i>Other potential settlements identified within township which may need further investigation</i>	From the key historic map source (1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map sheet Lancashire or Cheshire)
<i>Maps:</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6" OS map sheets Lancashire or Cheshire plus any others used or noted
<i>References:</i>	Key book/ article /journal and HER sources used.

## **Merseyside Historic Environment Record date periods**

- Mesolithic: 10,000 - 4001 BC
- Neolithic: 4000 - 2,351 BC
- Bronze Age: 2,350 - 751 BC
- Iron Age: 750 BC - 42AD
- Roman: 43-409 AD
- Early Medieval/Dark Age 410-1065 AD
- Medieval 1066 – 1539 AD
- Post-Medieval 1540 – 1750 AD
- Industrial Revolution 1751 – 1900 AD
- (Industrial Revolution I 1751 – 1835 AD)
- (Industrial Revolution II 1836 – 1900 AD)
- Empire 1901 – 1917 AD
- Modern 1901 – 2050 AD

## Glossary

*Assart* – ‘Originally an enclosure, but then more particularly a clearing or enclosure in a forest, and more rarely in other waste land.’ (1)

*Assize* – ‘Royal declarations were called Assizes, and so were judicial proceedings such as The Possessory Assizes. In addition, decisions reached by an assembly were sometimes said to be assized – most commonly in the case of assized rents.’ (1)

*Berewick* – ‘A subsidiary or outlying estate.’ (1)

*Bovate* – ‘A variable measure related to the amount of land an ox could plough in a year and the soil quality.’ (1)

*Burguage* – ‘A small field, usually less than half an acre, a short distance from the farmhouse.’ (1)

*Demesne* – ‘Land retained by the lord of the manor for his own use and upon which tenants gave free service according to the customs of the manor. Land which was part of the main farm of the manor.’ (1)

*Domesday/Domesday Survey* – The Domesday Book was commissioned by William the Conqueror (invader of England in 1066) and consists of two volumes compiled in 1085/6 registering all taxable land in England. ‘The survey was compiled hundred by hundred, vill by vill, within each shire.’ (1)

*Fee* - an estate.

*Freehold/Freeland* – ‘A free tenure and not subject to the custom of the manor or the will of the lord. Its disposal after death was without restriction.’

*Hamlet* – ‘A small village, usually without a church and under the jurisdiction of, and in the same parish as, another village or town.’ (1)

*Hundred (West Derby)* – ‘A division of a shire especially important in Saxon and Norman times.’ (1)

*Manor* – ‘The land held by a lord.’ (1)

*Messuage* – ‘A house, its outbuildings and yard and, in some instances, the garden a well.’ (1)

*Rood* – ‘A crucifix; a name generally applied to the large cross at the entrance to the chancel in Roman Catholic churches.’ (1)

*Rural Fringe Report* - reference to the 1980’s series of reports reviewing the archaeology of Merseyside’s rural fringe, the data gathering and field work for which formed the basis of the Historic Environment Record.

*Seignior* – ‘A lord’s holding of land, usually a manor.’ (1)

*Thane/Thegn* – ‘An Old English term for one who was part of the king’s household or his military elite.’ (1)

*Tithe Map*– ‘Tithe maps were produced, mainly in the period 1838 – 1854, and were drawn to a scale between 13 and 26 inches to the mile.’ Accompanied by Tithe Apportionments, or records, under the Tithe Commutation Act 1836 listing the owners and occupiers of land. (1)

*Township* – ‘A vague term denoting a group of houses which formed a unit of local administration. Generally the term was superseded, after the conquest, by *Vill*.’ (1)

*Vill* – ‘A settlement which could be a parish, manor or tithing.’ (1)

Reference: (1) Richardson J. 1981. *The Local Historian's Encyclopedia*. Historical Publication Limited. Hertfordshire.

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