



Neighbourhood Development Plan

Our Historic Environment

What is our historic environment? It includes the conservation areas and listed buildings and scheduled monuments. But those are just the buildings and structures that have statutory protection, and there is so much more than that to our historic environment.

How about the highway network, from the A53 and A51 to the public rights of way and everything between? The highway network is the skeleton that has given shape to the Neighbourhood Area. Down the centuries it has provided the vital links between settlements, farmsteads and isolated dwellings and has enabled the life and development of the area.

Our "A" roads have been the main highways through the area for many centuries. They were "turnpiked" (made into gated toll roads) in the late 18th century. After the opening of Whitmore station the A53 was rerouted between Newcastle and Common Lane. In 1966 a couple of bends on the A51 were realigned. Apart from that, the routes of these two roads remain unchanged. The routing and character of the minor roads, single-track lanes and footpaths also remain unaltered down the centuries.

What about buildings? The unlisted buildings tell their own stories. Farmhouses and farmstead buildings are one example. Workers' cottages are another, as are the area's old school and chapel buildings, and "one offs" such as the North Staffs Hunt kennels. The many farmhouses and farmsteads are mostly 19th century, but a few are older. They tell the story of a prosperous farming area.

The workers' cottages on the Whitmore and Maer estates housed estate workers and domestic servants. Each estate has its own style of cottage architecture. In Maer, although the basic style remained the same, changing details and finishes identify cottages built at different periods.

In Baldwins Gate, on Chorlton Moss and in Hill Chorlton there are a different type of workers' cottages, built by landlords to rent out to workers employed by the railway, the station and the businesses that grew up around that nucleus. They too have a different style and are much plainer than the estate cottages.

The Borough Council maintains a Register of Locally Important Buildings and Structures. Its purpose is to "raise awareness in the community of our local heritage and to protect it from harmful change and demolition". The Register will be updated in 2018. Later this year nominations will be sought for buildings and structures to be added to the Register.

If there are buildings in the Neighbourhood Area that you feel should be given recognition and protection by being added to the Register, please contact us. The significance of a building could be historical, architectural, social, its contribution to the local rural character and landscape, or a combination of these and other factors. The Register of Locally Important Buildings and Structures offers an important opportunity to secure recognition and protection for our local heritage – let's use it!

It's your neighbourhood – please support the Neighbourhood Plan!

Please participate in the Local Consultation

Visit the website: www.cmaw-neighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Email us: cmaw-neighbourhoodplan@hotmail.com