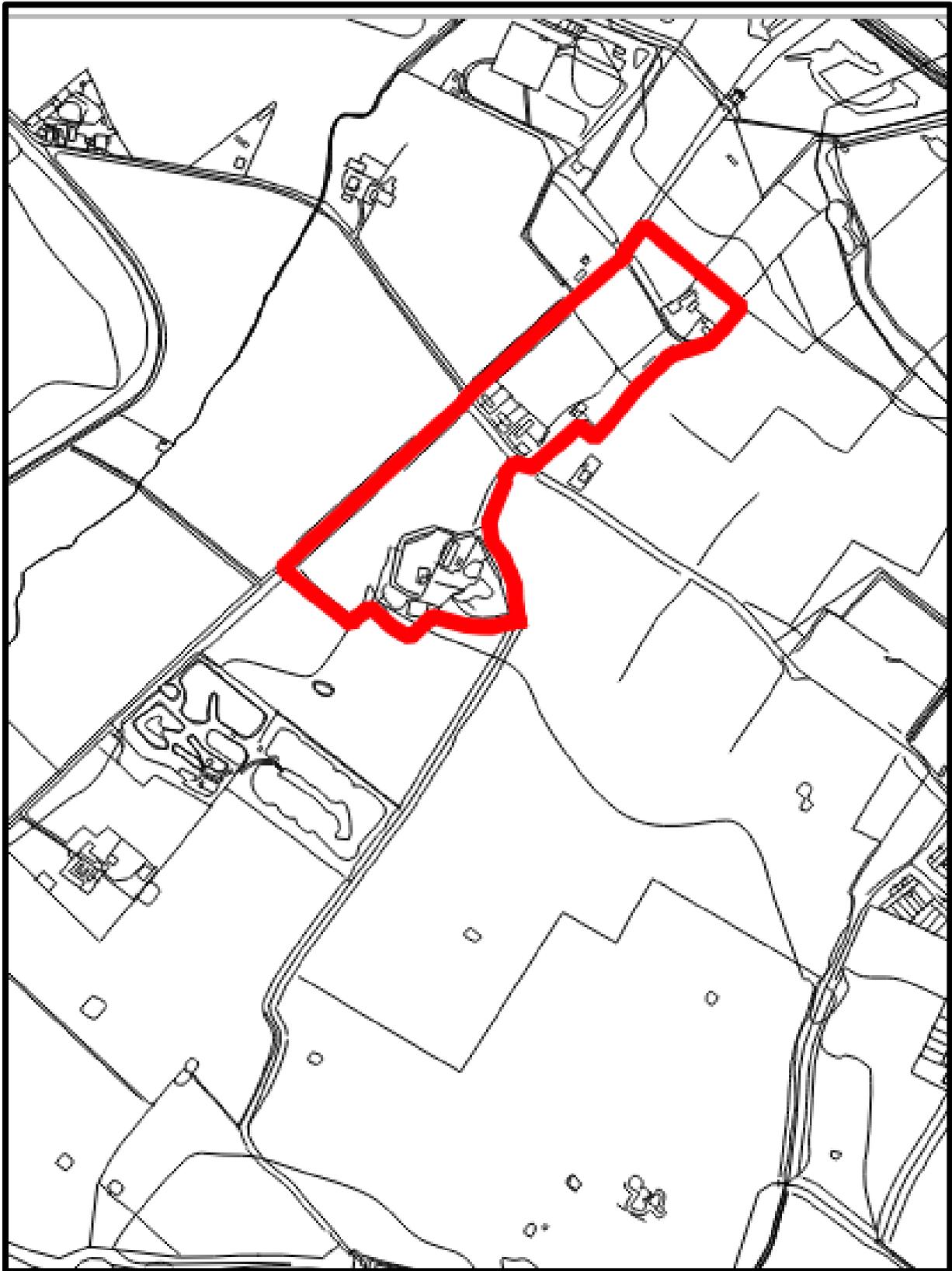


Homer Green

Conservation Area Appraisal &
Management Plan

Adopted January 2024

This conservation area appraisal was prepared by Sefton Council in 2022.



Map showing Conservation Area Boundary

Homer Green Conservation Area

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PREFACE

Legislative Background

Since the 1967 Civic Amenities Act local authorities have been empowered to designate as Conservation Areas those areas within their districts which were considered 'special'. The subsequent Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990 consolidated those powers and defined Conservation Areas as:

"areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance".

Such areas are diverse. They may be large or small; residential or commercial; civic or industrial; old or relatively modern. They may represent social ideals or civic pride. They may be specifically designed or speculatively produced; modest or grand. They may contain Listed Buildings of architectural or historic interest or may simply have local historic association. However, common to all will be an identifiable environmental quality which should be protected from unsympathetic redevelopment or alteration.

Sefton Council has declared 25 Conservation Areas throughout the Borough reflecting the variety of building styles and environments exhibited within its borders.

Policy Framework

The content of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is supported by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) and Historic England 'Advice Note 1'. The principles within the NPPF, the NPPG and 'Advice Note 1' are further supported by Sefton Council's Heritage policies contained within its Local Plan. This legislation and policy framework enables the authority to exercise greater control over development within Conservation Areas and, where appropriate, this may be supplemented by the use of 'Article 4 Directions' to remove permitted development rights. In this way, minor changes, which may be cumulatively detrimental, can be more closely controlled.

Historic England have also produced a suite of documents that expand on the NPPF and provide further advice on all different aspects of the historic environment, particularly "Guidance on the Management of Conservation Areas", "Conservation Area Appraisals", "Streets for All" and "Valuing Places". Local Authorities have a duty to review, from time to time, their areas to ensure that places of special architectural or historic interest are being protected. The boundaries of existing Conservation Areas may be revised, new areas may be designated and those areas which have been eroded to the extent that their special character has been lost, may be de-designated.

NPPF

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

NPPG

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment#designated-heritage-assets>

Historic England 'Advice Note 1'

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management-advice-note-1/heag-268-conservation-area-appraisal-designation-management/>

How status affects Planning decisions

Whilst the Council recognises that, for Conservation Areas to remain 'live' and responsive to a changing society, changes must and will occur, it nevertheless undertakes to ensure that all changes make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of its Conservation Areas and do not result in any serious loss of character or features.

Planning legislation supports the authority by increasing its control over developments, in addition to normal permitted developments. It does this in the following ways:

- Buildings and structures may not be demolished without Planning Permission.
- Trees of a minimum 75mm diameter trunk at 1.5 metres above ground) are protected and all work to them requires consent from the Council.
- New development is expected to reflect the quality of design and construction of the surrounding area and should make a positive contribution to the area's character.

Local planning authorities may, if necessary, exercise even greater control by removing the basic permitted development rights of householders. Under section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Council has a legal obligation to ensure that "special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance" of the area when deciding planning applications.

Need for an appraisal

The first step to protecting the inherent qualities of a Conservation Area is having a thorough understanding of its character. This should then underpin local policies for the area's protection. Such a definition requires a thorough appraisal of the area to assess the contribution of each element (e.g. buildings, boundaries, trees, surfaces, etc.) to the area's overall character. Whilst this appraisal aims to identify the essential elements which give this Conservation Area its character, it is not intended as a detailed evaluation of each building and feature. Therefore, any buildings, features and details may still have importance even though not specifically referred to in the document and any omissions do not indicate lack of merit or interest.

Conservation Area designation may result in implications for property owners through increased statutory controls which carefully manage development, however designation can also enhance economic and social wellbeing and provide a sense of continuity. The most effective conservation work can act as a catalyst for further regeneration and improvements to the public realm. Conservation Area Appraisals allow the public to offer comment on the observations and recommendations made within and the justification of designation as a whole.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

This appraisal has been prepared by the the Conservation Team of the Planning Department from Economic Growth and Housing of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council. The purpose is to clarify the designation of Homer Green Conservation Area, which will protect and enhance the character of the immediate and surrounding area.

The designation as a Conservation Area provides the Local Planning Authority with additional powers to protect and enhance the areas special character. It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to publish up to date proposals for the conservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas.

The Management Plan naturally follows on from the Conservation Area Appraisal and identifies the essential elements of the Conservation Area in order to provide a thorough understanding of its character. The Management Plan is the key tool for outlining the way in which the Council will seek to preserve and enhance the conservation area and how it will be monitored.

Good management and maintenance are crucial to the long-term care of heritage sites, this means having the right skills and procedures in place to ensure that they are looked after in an appropriate manner. Poor management and maintenance put heritage at risk, and can lead to higher repair, restoration, and refurbishment costs in the future.

1.2 Scope and Structure of the Study

The scope and structure of this Conservation Area Appraisal is based on the guidelines published by Historic England and represent a factual and objective analysis.

In accordance with the guidelines, the following framework has been used as the basis for the analysis.

- Location and context
- Historic development
- Landscape and vistas
- Townscape and focal buildings
- Architecture materials and details
- Negative factors and opportunities for enhancements

The appraisal has been structured to encompass these areas of study with the aim to identify and examine those elements which individually and collectively define the essential character of the area. This will be done through both written analysis and visual materials such as historic and contemporary maps and photography.

The appraisal will conclude with management plan and any recommendations for potential amendments to the Conservation Area boundary. Whilst this document provides a

comprehensive analysis of the area, any descriptive omission of a building or feature does not imply that it has no special interest.

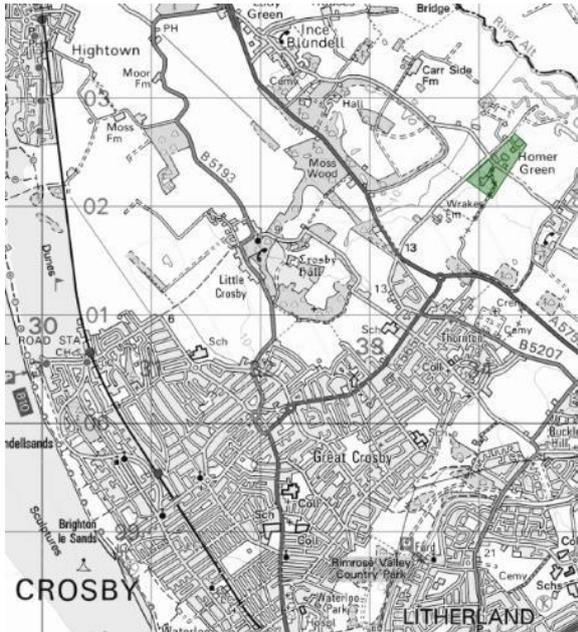
Detailed surveys of Homer Green Conservation Area were undertaken 2021 and 2022.

These site visits provided the opportunity to gather photographic evidence, examine the condition of the heritage assets and fully understand the character of the place. Combined with the research undertaken as part of a desk-based study it provides a thorough and in depth understanding of the Conservation Area.

2.0 LOCATION AND CONTEXT

2.1 Location

Homer Green Conservation Area is located 7 miles north of the City of Liverpool.



Map 1 - Location of Homer Green Conservation Area



Map 2 - Location of Homer Green Conservation Area in relation to the town of Thornton (South)

It is located 1 mile north of the medieval township Thornton and separated by common fields. It falls within Sefton's designated Green Belt as outlined in Sefton Council's 2017 Local Plan.

2.2 Topography, Geography and Geology

The hamlet is located in a flat fen district within the Alt Valley, which is subdivided into farming plots. There is a network of ditches within the Conservation Area created by former man-made excavations at the site. The northern part of the Conservation Area is naturally bounded by trees, whilst the Southern area around Homer Green Farm remains primarily open and is surrounded by cultivated farmland.

The geology of the hamlet comprises of Triassic Keuper Sandstone covered by boulder clay and sand sediments, which are deposited between the hamlet and River Alt in the Northwest.

2.3 Uses

Today there is a concentration of residential dwellings towards the middle of the Conservation Area. Former farmsteads have reduced in intensity or are no longer working farms. To the south is Homer Green Farm which still functions as a farm.

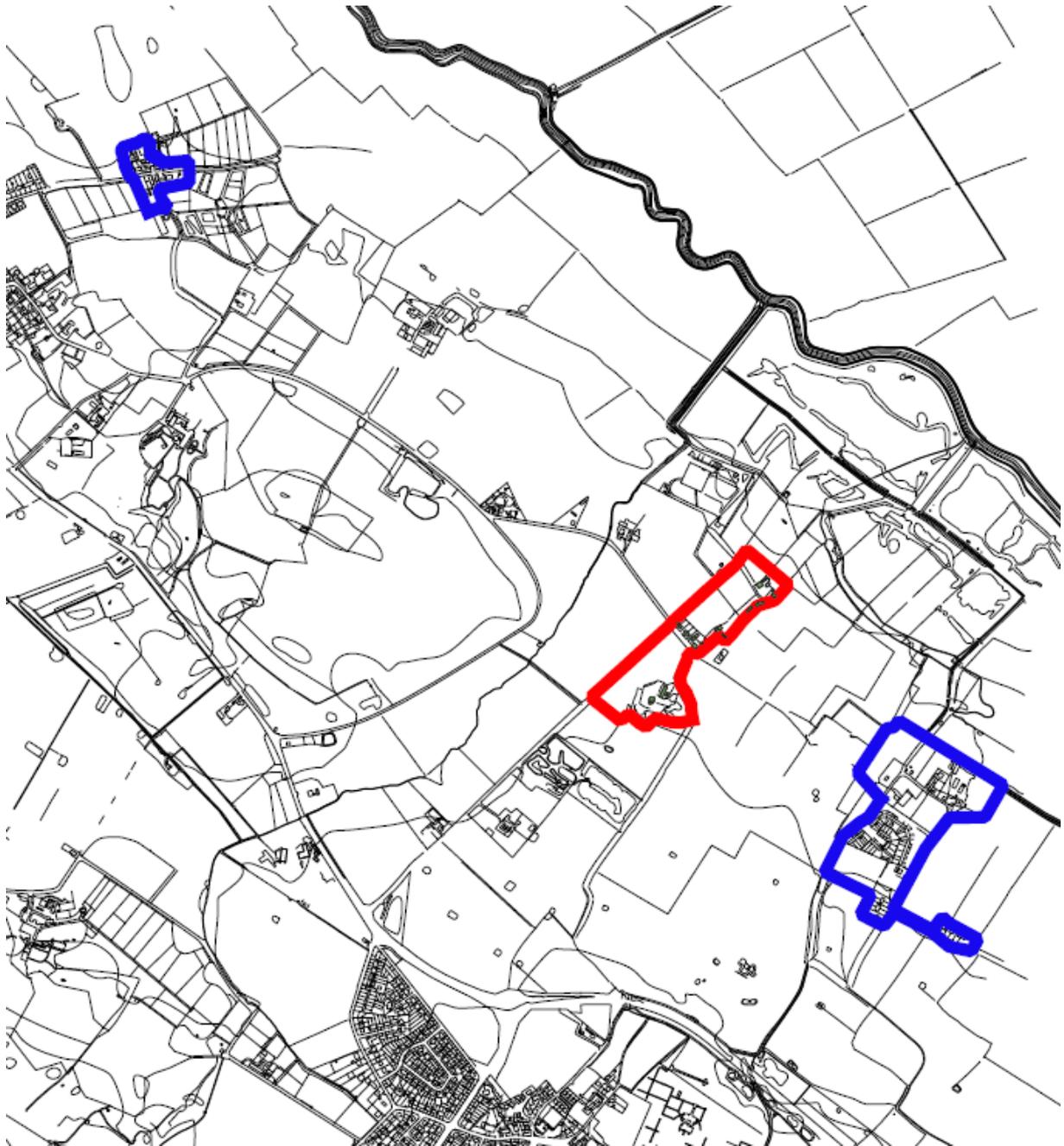
Although this has diverted from a purely agriculture settlement, the character of such has remained.

2.4 Conservation Context

Homer Green Conservation Area is situated between Lunt Village Conservation Area to the Southeast and Ince Blundell Conservation Area to the Northwest.

Homer Green, Carr Houses and Lunt Village all form a band of rural Conservation Areas situated in the rural buffer between Crosby and Maghull, strung along Lunt Road.

Homer Green Conservation Area was designated on 26th April 1996 under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, alongside Carr House Conservation Area and Lunt Village Conservation Area.



Map 3 - Map of Homer Green Conservation Area (Middle, Red Boundary Line), Carr Houses Conservation Area (North, Blue Boundary Line) and Lunt Conservation Area (South, Blue Boundary Line)

2.5 Study Area Boundary

Homer Green Conservation Area is in the form of a rough rectangle. It is centered around the former historic “Common Croft”, which ran parallel of Long Lane and Broad Lane in a North-Easterly direction. It extends from Homer Green Farm in the Southeast with its associated outbuildings and ponds, up to the present-day Laurels Cottages in the Northwest.



Map 4 - Homer Green Conservation Area Boundary

3.0 HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Early History and Origins

The hamlet is located north of the medieval township of “Torentun” (now Thornton) within the Ancient Parish of Sefton and was referenced in the 1086 Domesday Book. The name “green” likely relates to being an isolated farmstead or hamlet, which is a common theme seen throughout both Sefton and Lancashire.

Over time the name of the surrounding farmlands and eventually hamlet has evolved, and a number of name adaptations have been used. This could be the reason for a lack of collective information regarding its early residents and history.

The earliest documentation of the hamlet is with the historical name of “Houlmore” and dates from the 14th Century regarding the grant of land. There is also historic documentation stating the hamlet has been spelt “Hulmore”.

The 1769 Molyneux Estate Map the name of associated lands were named ‘Hulmer Green’ and in 1825 this had developed into a hamlet that was referred to as “Hulman’s Green”. In the Baine’s Lancashire Directory and History records described it as a township within Thornton 6 miles Southwest of Ormskirk. Another name variation comes from Ordnance Survey Map of 1849 which published the name of the hamlet as “Homer’s Green”.



Map 5 - 1849 Ordnance Survey map referencing the Hamlet as ‘Homer’s Green.’

Homer Green has medieval roots which can physically be seen through the survival of the medieval arrangement of the settlement.

Historically, Homer Green comprised of one of two Domesday ploughlands, which was given to the Barony of Warrington in the 11th Century. These were located north of where Homer Green Farm stands today and the land behind Laurel Cottages.

This land was later granted to the Molyneux Family of Sefton, who already owned the third ploughland, which made up the Township of Thornton.

The Molyneux Family were a powerful and noble family who had influence and land in the Northwest, dating back from the Norman Conquest up until the 20th Century. The Molyneux Family owned 104 leases in Lancashire and are unlikely to have been popular with local farmers due to fining their tenants heavily, extracting over £3000 between 1646 and 1688. They were fierce royalists and the revenue from their lands funded their economic recovery and power after being punished by anti-royalist legislation on the suspicion of being involved in the Jacobite plot. The eldest known member of the Molyneux family, Richard Molyneux (Robert Molyneux's father), is buried 2km away at St Helen's Church in Sefton to the family were patrons of until the late 1600s.

Records show that in 1212 the Molyneux Family of Sefton granted the land of Homer Green Farm to Robert Molyneux. Robert was the son of Richard Molyneux and the ancestor of a long line of a younger branch of the gentry family, known as the Molyneux Family of Thornton. The Molyneux Family of Thornton themselves lived at Homer Green Farm up until their removal to Wood Hall, Melling in the 15th Century. This is likely to explain the lack of resident freeholders in the area in 1600s.

The Molyneux family of Thornton held the granted land of Homer Green Farm and the associated Farmhouse up until the 18th Century. It was in this century the Bootle Family moved into the Farmhouse, with the male family members working as farmers.

Due to the small and rural nature of the Conservation Area, it is unsurprising that no significant events have occurred or been recorded over the years. A few newspaper articles that have survived recorded that in 1945 John Harrison of The Laurels was fined £5 at Liverpool County magistrates Court after pleading guilty to failing to track the movement of 8 pigs, and in January 1944 Joseph Jones of Ivy Cottage pleaded guilty to stealing 10 heads of poultry. This could indicate the economic impact of WWII or a potential rivalry between farmsteads.

3.2 Development

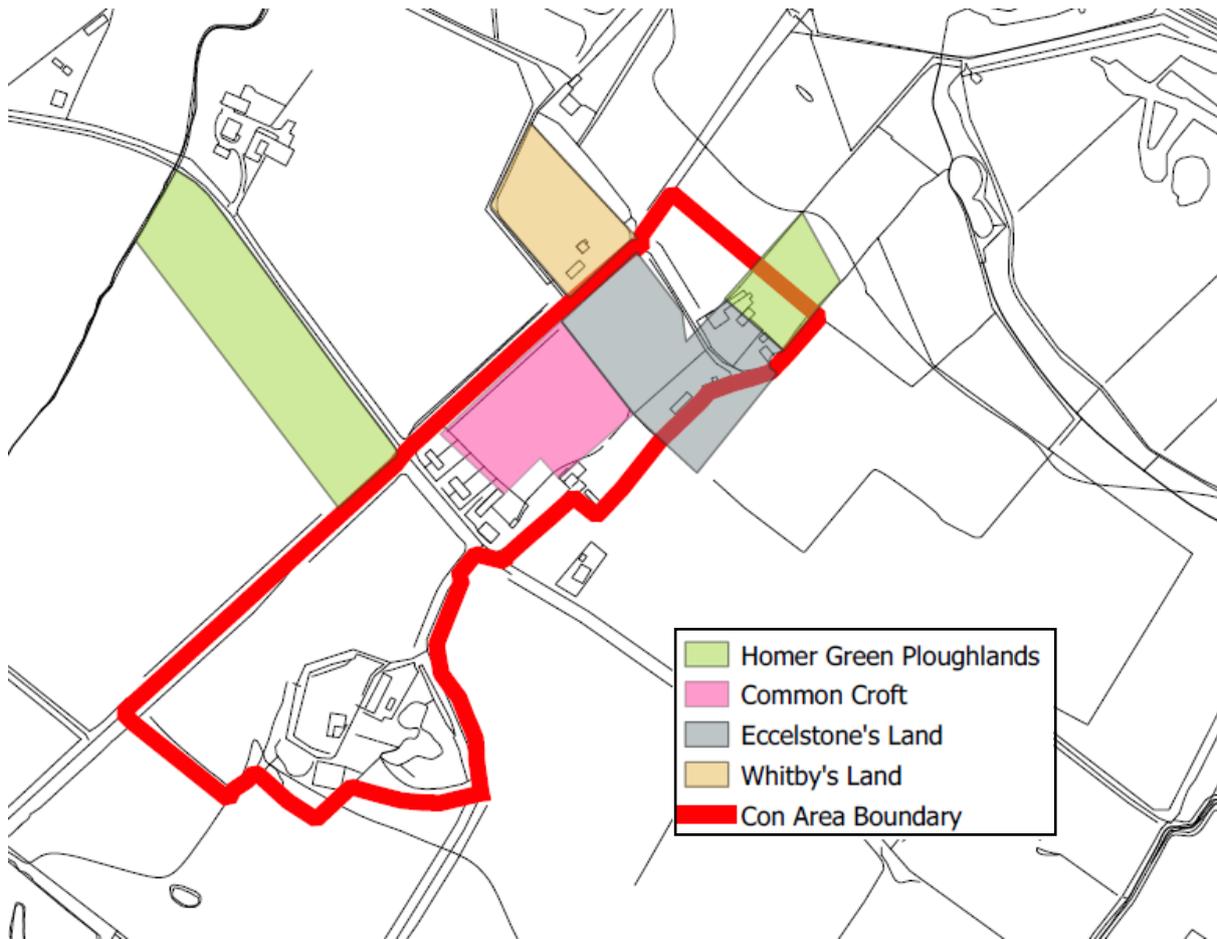
Homer Green was informally arranged around a medieval "Common Croft", a unit of agricultural land part of a township with communal grazing land. Homer Green is bounded by deep ditch and has organically developed, which can be seen through the irregularity of the cluster of farmsteads.



Map 6 - Molyneux Estate Map of 1769

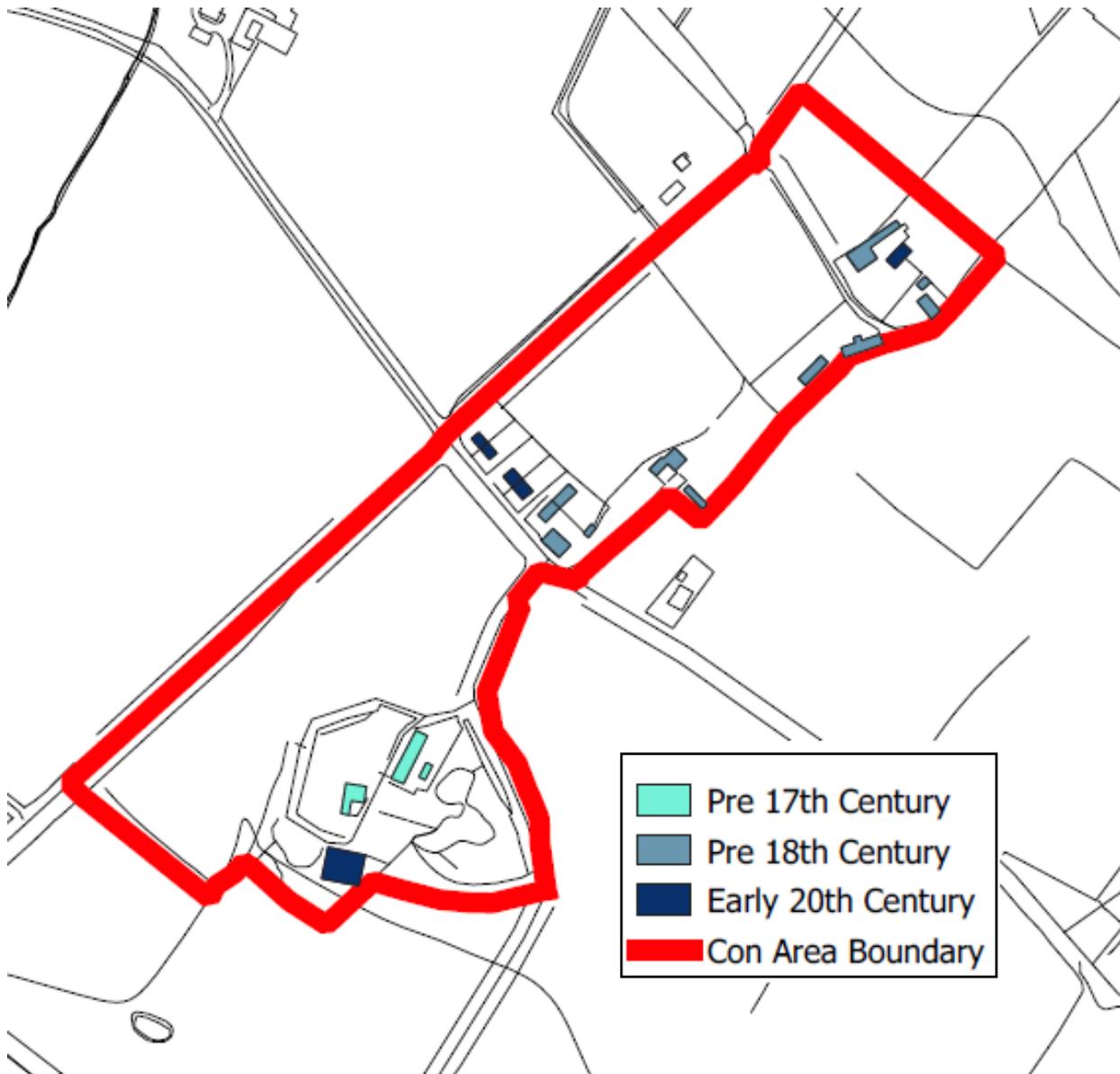
Today, this original arrangement is largely preserved with a small number of farmsteads grouped around the east and south of the former Common Croft. This can be seen with the overlay on Map 7.

The hamlet had avoided late 20th century expansion, unlike the neighboring settlements of Thornton and Lunt, and as a result largely retained its cohesion and homogeneous building style. The informal agricultural arrangement is in fact a near identical layout to The Molyneux Estate Map of 1769, with the exception of the loss of cottages, including at the crossroads in the original Homer Green Ploughlands, and crofts surrounding Lunt Road (which are now cultivated fields), as well as the construction of Stanley Cottages.



Map 7 – 1769 Ploughland Boundaries on Modern Map

Stanley Cottages was constructed in 1921 for the Sefton Rural District Council and were a pair of attractive agricultural workers cottages. Whilst they do have historical value individually, their location causes harm by obscuring the historical orientation of the Common Croft and disrupting the relationship between Homer Green Farm and the settlement.



Map 8 - Age of Buildings in Homer Green

3.3 Historic Uses and Their Influence

Homer Green has been used for agriculture since its origins, with the Common Croft being the core of the hamlet. The Southwest plain of Lancashire is one of the most fertile agricultural districts in England and rural agriculture has continued to be a significant characteristic to the Conservation Area.

3.4 Archeology

The Sefton Rural Fringes Survey Report of 1982 recommended Conservation Area status for Homer Green due to its potential archeological significance.

Excessive areas of ponds and infilled ditches are located to the East of the farmland at Homer Green Farm as well surrounding “Common Croft” and directly through its middle. Some evidence suggests

this could be the reminiscence of ground extraction of most likely marl, a carbonate rich mudstone which would have been used as fertilizer.

However, there is a possibility that Homer Green Farm was in fact a moated site. This is due to historical records indicating one of the Ploughlands granted to the Barony of Warrington after the conquest of 1066 was a moted site, in addition to later records indicating that the Molyneux family held a moated manor. In 1986 the Merseyside Archeological Society deemed Homer Green Farm to be a “Probable Site” for being moated, however no archeological survey or excavation have occurred to this date.

In addition to this, Fieldwalking in the land surrounding Homer Green Farmhouse has produced finds dating from the medieval or post early medieval period. These have including pottery found in April 1982.

4.0 LANDSCAPES AND VISTAS

4.1 Setting and Relationship with the Surrounding Area

Homer Green Conservation Area is set approximately 1.5km Northeast of Thornton and 3km West of Maghull. The scattered collection of low-lying buildings means the hamlet does not over-dominate the landscape. The designation of the Conservation Area and further protection from the Green Belt have aided the landscape remaining open and relatively unchanged.

Long Lane links the hamlet with Thornton. It is approximately 1km long which creates a clear divide between the residential outskirts and rural farmstead. On approach, Stanley Cottages and Ivy Cottages are the first indication of the hamlet, but there are few focused views due to the low-lying vernacular buildings with the scale and openness of the Common Croft. Homer Green Farm and its associated farm buildings remain primarily hidden behind a line of trees until the boundary has been reached.



View A – Homer Green from Long Lane

Lunt Road approaches the Conservation Area from Lunt Village, with flat agricultural fields on either side of the road. This allows for uninterrupted views through to the River Alt and West Lancashire, with the only disruption being to the low-lying dwellings within Homer

Green and Park View. The road continues to cut through the Conservation Area to the junction with East Lane.



View B – Homer Green from Lunt Road

East Lane connects the hamlet with Ince Blundell and neighbors two agricultural fields. The agricultural buildings associated with Hunt's Brook Farm on East Lane are visible from the Conservation Area looking onto East Lane.



View C – Homer Green from East Lane

The North-West boundary is encompassed by private open fields. However, unlike the other boundaries this one is clearly determined by a row of trees parallel to Broad Lane, creating some seclusion to the Conservation Area. In the summer months there is a more striking divide between the boundary, road, and Common Croft.



View D – Homer Green from the Public Footpath

Lunt Road and East Lane experience some traffic flow as it is a key route to and from the neighboring hamlets and villages in this area of Sefton. The rural nature of the hamlet means this remains relatively light, which does not have a significant impact on the rural character of the Conservation Area.

The edge of Thornton is approximately 1.25km away from the Conservation Area boundary through Long Lane. Long Lane does not have pavements, so it is largely inaccessible without a car. A bus stop is located on Lunt Road opposite Stanley Cottages and is served by the hourly 133 service.

4.2 Character and Relationship with Spaces

Homer Green Conservation Area is set mostly amongst flat agricultural land and vast fields and the low density of the buildings maintains the rural character.

Shallow trenches are found along the Eastern border of Broad Lane, dividing the road with the former Common Croft. Trenches are also found encompassing the fields surrounding Homer Green Farm along the Eastern border of Long Lane and historical importance.

Trees line the Common Croft along Broad Lane which creates a boundary around the historically significant feature and for the edge of the Conservation Area.



View E – The Common Croft from Broad Lane, with The Laurels in the Background

4.3 Views and Vistas Within the Conservation Area

The flatness of the surrounding fields allows for uninterrupted panoramic views of wider countryside to the South and East.

The South of Common Croft is open, with the shallow trenches not disrupting the wider views. It allows Homer Green Farm to be widely visible despite its distance from the rest of the

buildings. Stanley Cottages is again a focal viewpoint on approach to the Conservation Area, along with the southern part of the common croft creating a wide vista.

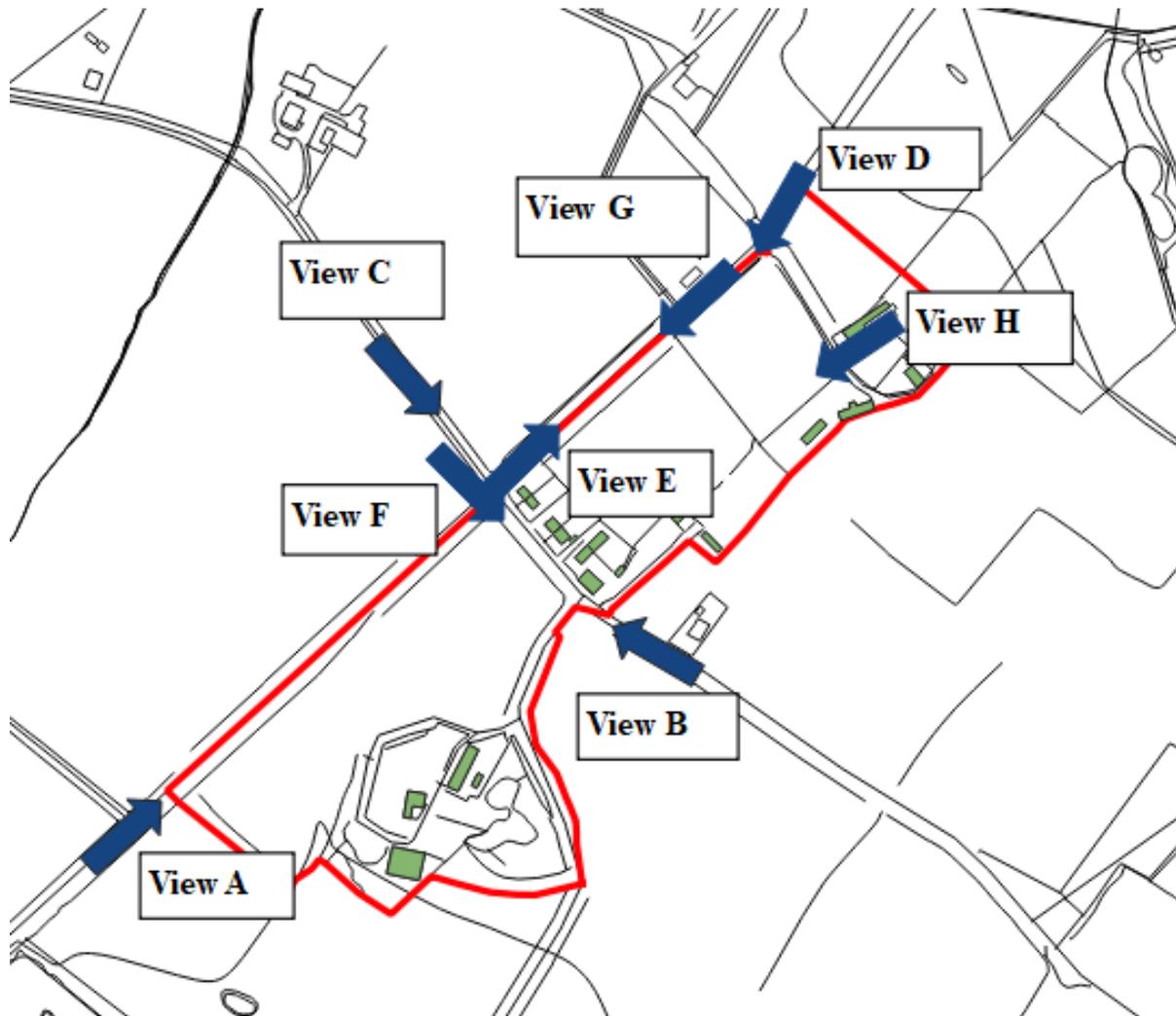


View F - The junction at Long Lane looking down Lunt Lane, featuring Stanley Cottages

The Northern boundary of the Conservation Area and Common Croft is sheltered and lined with trees, creating a more secluded environment. Fences create a natural break in the tree line which offer glimpses of the open Common Croft.



View G and H - Broad Lane and The Common Croft

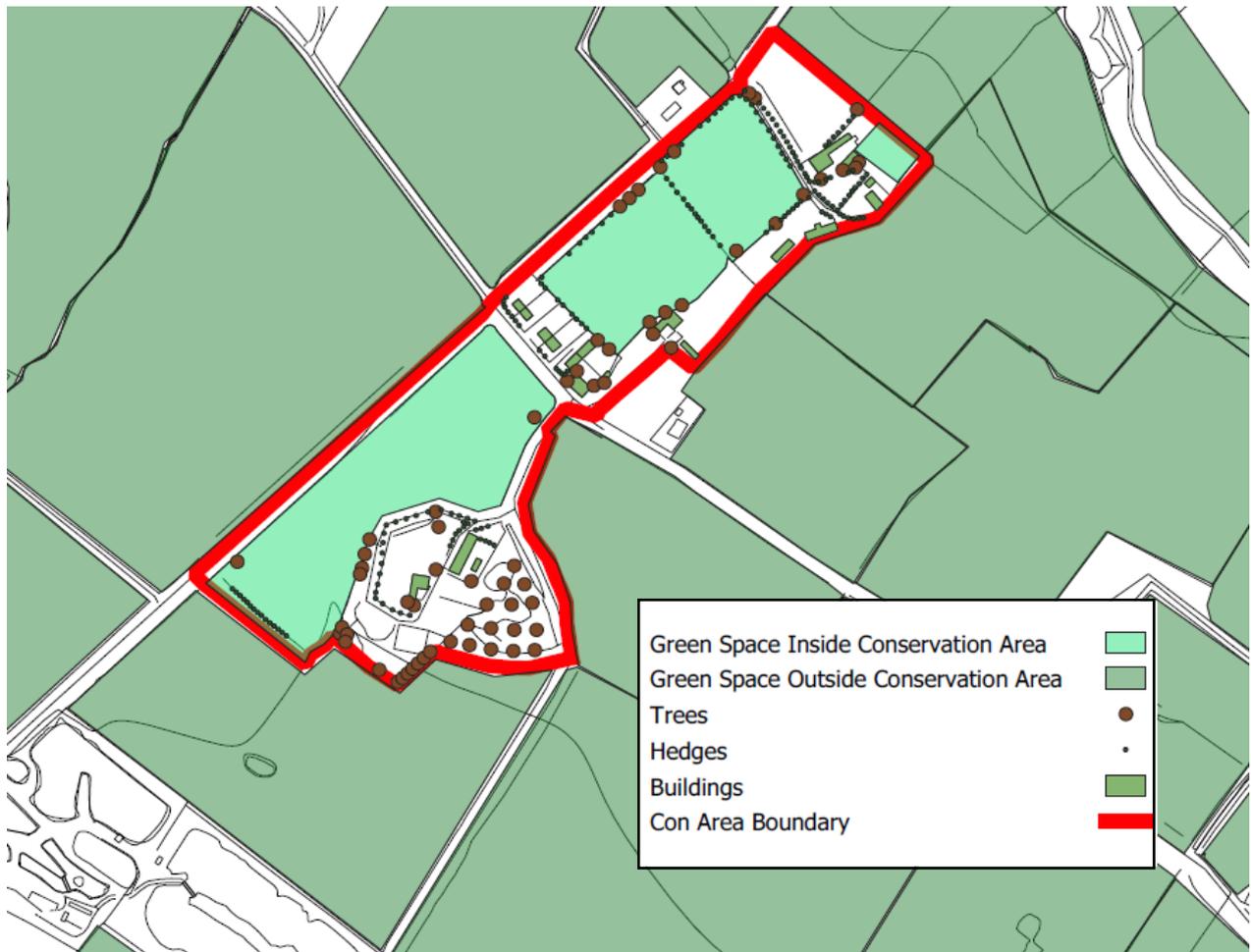


Map 9 - Map of Views and Vistas

4.4 Green Spaces and Natural Heritage

The Common Croft not only has historical significance, but the large open space contributes to the rural character and viewpoints of the hamlet. However, the construction of Stanley Cottages has interrupted the openness of the northern field.

Uninterrupted views from the surrounding open fields also contribute to the rural character.



Map 10 - Map of Green Spaces

The rural quality of the Conservation Area has not been significantly harmed by modern street furniture such as unsympathetic road name signs and lamp posts. This limited usage should be continued to maintain the natural heritage of Homer Green and aid the uninterrupted vistas of the green spaces.

5.0 TOWNSCAPE AND FOCAL BUILDINGS

5.1 Grain

The grain and density of Homer Green is predominately characterised by detached 2-storey dwellings.

There are 11 purpose-built dwellings in the Conservation Area, 1 modern agricultural barn, 2 converted barns and 6 other buildings.

Type 1 – Detached Agricultural Dwellings

Characterised by

- 2-storey
- Detached
- Purpose-built dwelling
- 1-room deep originally
- Gable Roof
- Chimneys

Homer Green Farmhouse



The most notable building at Homer Green is Homer Green Farmhouse, which was listed Grade II in January 1986 and likely dates from the 16th Century. However, several alterations have occurred away from its true form.

It is a rare vernacular building due to its high sandstone plinths surmounted by brick walls with a cruck frame. The brick exterior, however, is not an original feature and would likely have been added in the late 19th to early 18th century, with the rising popularity and widespread availability of bricks due to the introduction of the railway. The windows have experienced several alterations and styles over the years as the property has been extended and altered.

Ivy Cottages



Many 19th Century features have remained on the property, although there have been alterations. The cottages bear a datestone from 1719 on the southern gable, however it is likely this relates to the buildings core and the current buildings has been extended later both ends.

The traditional character of the properties with its architecture, scale and materials are quintessential to Homer Green.

The Laurels and Laurel Cottage



The Laurels and Laurel Cottage enclosed the Common Croft to the North. The properties outline is visible on maps from the 18th century and whilst the properties have been renovated since, they still maintain some traditional characteristics.

Broad Farm



Located East of the Common Croft and has been identified as in the possession of William Eccleston on the Molyneux Estate Plan.

Holly Farm



Whilst the outline has been recorded on 18th century maps, the dwelling that stands today is a reconstruction of the original dwelling.

Type 2 – 1920s Semi-Detached Cottages

Characterised by

- Symmetrical pairings of semi-detached cottages
- Wall dormers on front elevation
- Red brick and slate roofs
- Simplistic chimneys

Stanley Cottages (No.1,2,3 and 4)



Stanley Cottages are early 20th Century workers cottages and represent a modern addition to Conservation Area's interest. The orientation of Stanley Cottages obscures the original layout as they back onto the common croft, rather than face towards it. They do however have a distinctive character due to their original symmetry.

Worker's cottages of similar appearance and age are found in Lunt and elsewhere in the southern Sefton, adding to local distinctiveness.

Type 3 – Vernacular Agricultural Barns

Characterised by

- Similar floorplan to their associated dwellings
- Minimal architectural detailing
- Gable roof
- Brick built

Homer Green Farm Barn (Converted to Dwelling)



Broad Farm Barn (Converted to Dwelling)



Barn on Lunt Lane (Disused)



Holly Farm Barn (In use)



The vernacular barns are of a simple design due to their historically practical use as storage for agricultural equipment or for animals. Nevertheless, they are a visual example to the agricultural history within the Conservation Area and contribute significantly to the rural character of Homer Green as and the subsequent location being close to their associated farmhouses.

Type 4: Working Agricultural Barns

Characterised by

- Industrial materials
- Gable roof
- No windows

Homer Green Farm Barn (In Agricultural Use)



Homer Green has a working agricultural farm and historically, a barn has been present at the site since the 1850s. The materials are modern and an anomaly within the Conservation Area and would not be suitable for future residential conversion, unlike Type 3. Nevertheless, the active agricultural use is complementary to the origins of the hamlet and the gable style roof which is visible from public viewpoints is sympathetic to the character of the Conservation Area.

Type 5: Miscellaneous Buildings

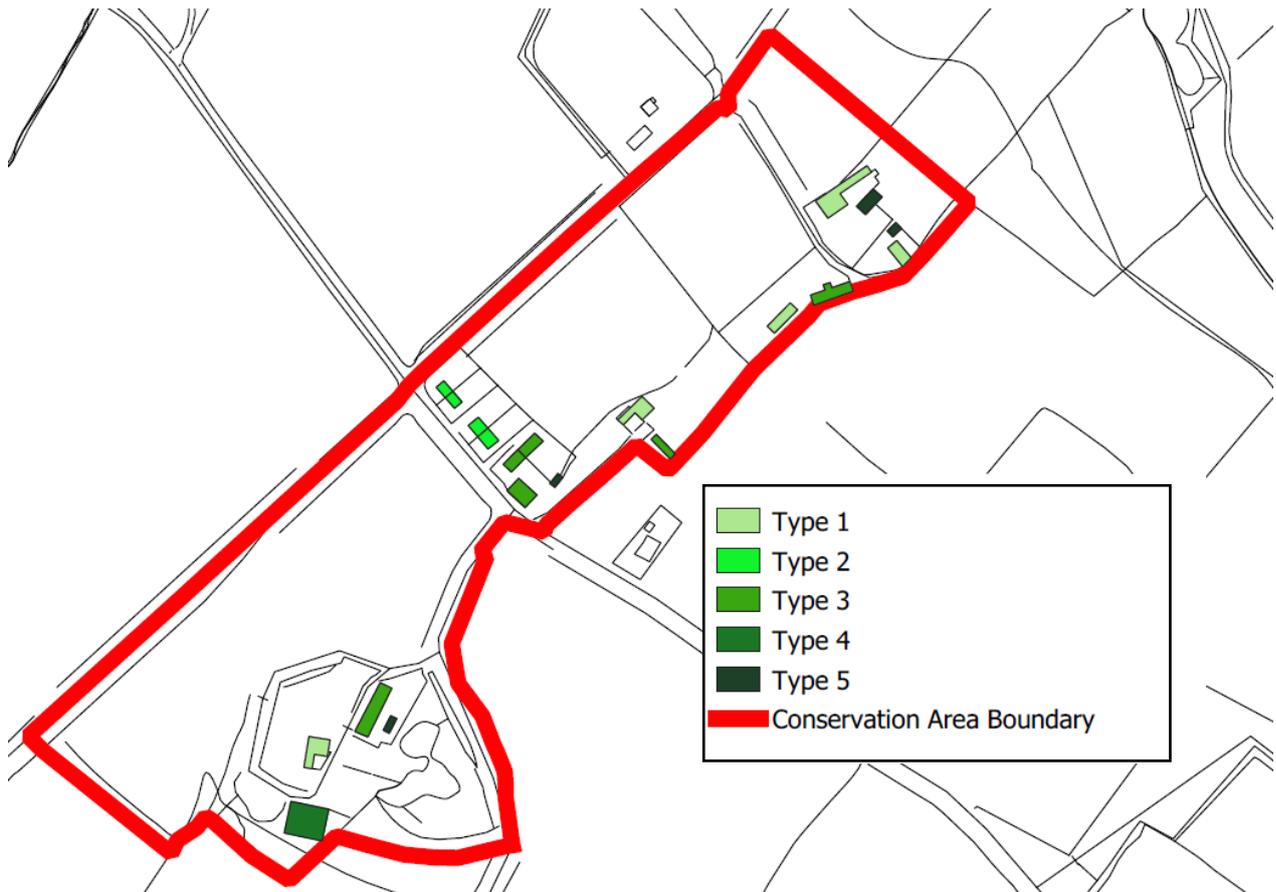
Characterised by

- Single storey
- Small scale
- Associated with dwelling

There are several small buildings within the Conservation Area. They are located away from public viewpoints and have a limited contribution to the character of the Conservation Area.

The rear agricultural building at The Laurels, the small outbuilding in the rear garden of Laurel Cottage and the small outbuilding in the garden of Ivy Cottages do not have historic significance and are not referenced on historic maps.

A small brick outbuilding at Homer Green Farm has been featured on historic maps since 1893. However, its small scale and being primarily hidden from public viewpoints with its secluded location behind the barn and farmhouse.



Map 11 - Map of Building Types in Homer Green Conservation Area

5.2 Scale

The scale of buildings remains relatively similar presenting as 1 room deep and 2-storey tall, to which the modest scale of these buildings is imperative to the character of Homer Green. The consistency of the scale gives a strong sense of character and homogeneity to the area, despite differences in plot sizes and distances between buildings.

5.3 Rhythm

Some rhythm can be observed with the layout of dwellings and farm buildings surrounding the Common Croft. However, Stanley Cottages is disrupting this rhythm by not directly facing the open space.

The consistency in materials and scale has maintained a subtly yet aesthetically pleasing appearance. The spacing between buildings creates a rhythm and distinction which contribute to the special character of the Conservation Area.



Stanley Cottages, Ivy Cottages and Barn along Lunt Lane

5.4 Repetition and Diversity

Whilst there are unifying elements of consistency, each building has its own quirks that adds interest to the area. Homer Green was never designed to be a united setting and the individual farmsteads are a reminder that they were built independently to serve the needs of each family.

Stanley Cottages is the only exception to this with a purposeful repetitive design built later in the early 20th century. However, the architecture adopted the traditional style that is seen elsewhere in the hamlet, such as the use of red brick and a modest scale. There are properties similar in Lunt Village Conservation Area.

Stanley Cottages were built to be identical but have been subject to alterations over time. All four properties have changed their window frames independently from timber to varying uPVC styles and No.1 Stanley Cottage has constructed a side extension. As the Cottages were designed to be identical unlike other properties in Homer Green, interference to the symmetry and repetition has had a negative impact on the appearance of them.

5.5 Roofscape

Gable roofs are the most frequently occurring roofscape in the Conservation Area, with the simple and modest design complementary of the hamlet's agricultural roots.



View from Broad Lane of the Roofscapes of The Laurels, Broad Farm Barn and House

There are only a few exceptions to this roofscape, to which these display a Catslide Roof. One of these is at Broad Lane Farm, a converted and extended former barn located to the North of the Conservation Area. Another is a disused barn as part of Holly Farm located on Lunt Road.



Catslide Roof on Broad Lane Barn and Barn at Ivy Cottages

The more modern dwellings of Stanley Cottages have maintained the characteristic gable roof but with the addition of a front wall dormer. As previously noted, No.1 Stanley Cottage has a roof light which whilst disrupts the symmetry, is done in a sympathetic way and to Conservation Standards. Any new roof light should be conservation style installed flush to the roof and in non-prominent elevations. Any new dormer windows would have to be well-proportioned on non-prominent elevations with matching roof materials. This would reduce any harm to the character of the area.



Wall Dormers at No.3 and No.4 Stanley Cottages

Chimneys are a characteristic of traditional dwellings in Homer Green that should not be removed, with the original pots displaying varying degrees of decoration. Modern additions to the roofscape such as antennas, vents or sun tunnels contribute negatively to the Conservation Area and should also be avoided due to lowering the quality and character of buildings.





Chimneys within Homer Green Conservation Area

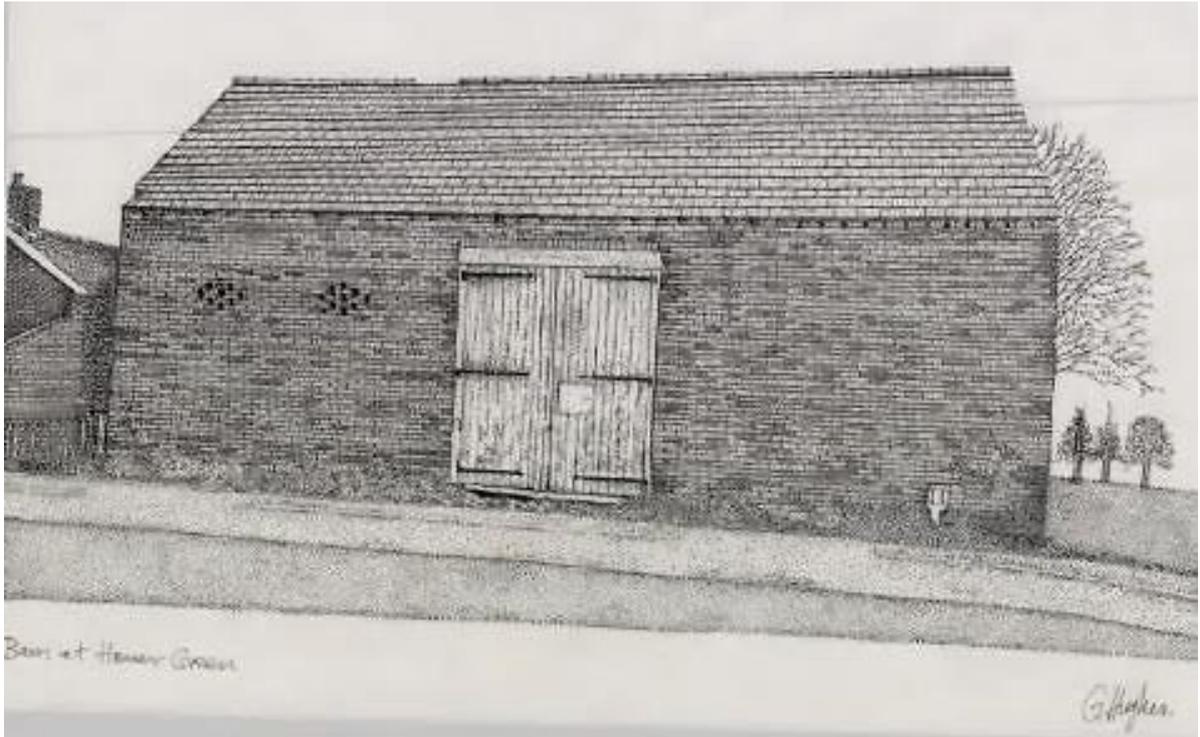
5.6 Conditions

The condition of the dwellings at Homer Green are in relatively good and are occupied. This includes the conversion of disused barns into residential accommodation at Broad Farm and dwelling at Homer Green Farm.

A minor number of issues relating to building maintenance have been identified and are to be expected due to the age of the buildings. These have been identified as the loss of render, biological growth on walls, loose roof slates and efflorescence deposit.

There are few remaining farm buildings that are in use or not been converted. Homer Green Farm has a purpose-built modern farm building constructed out of corrugated metals and plastic, which has seeing signs of aging. However, this building is set back from public highways and is hidden from the wider public view so is not detrimental to the quality of the Conservation Area.

The barn located on Lunt Road is the exception to this, with the building being in poor condition and highly visible within the Conservation Area. In 2007, planning permission was refused for the conversion of the disused barn into a private dwelling due to the intensification of activity having a detrimental effect on No.1 Ivy Cottage. The barn has continued to deteriorate since.



Drawing of the Barn at Ivy Cottages, Lunt Lane (No Date)



Current disrepair of the barn at Ivy Cottages, Lunt Lane

5.7 Focal Buildings and Features

Lunt Road is the primary road through the Conservation Area, and it is where most of the focal buildings are located. These are not necessarily the most significant in terms of historic, aesthetic, or evidential value but those buildings which are the most likely referenced when navigating around.

Stanley Cottages face Lunt Road and are visible when approaching the hamlet from Long Lane. Whilst of a modest scale, the pairing and uniformity of the 1920s cottages is prominent in a relatively singular and isolated setting.

The disused barn on Lunt Lane is located on the corner where there is a slight bend in the road. Its visibility, proximity to the road and characteristic architecture means it is a focal building despite its declining condition.

The open space in-between Homer Green Farm and Lunt Lane are a focal feature. The large grass space bounded by a shallow moat is visible and creates a separation of the historically significant Homer Green Farm with other farmsteads.

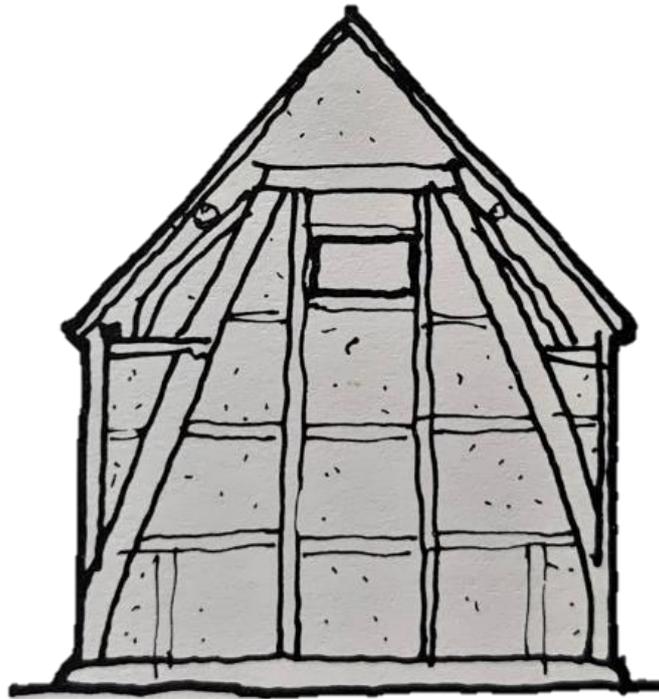
6.0 ARCHITECTURE MATERIALS AND DETAILS

6.1 Leading Architects

No notable architects have been involved in the buildings of Homer Green, which is due to the rural location and the practical purpose of the buildings.

Nevertheless, the local vernacular architecture of Homer Green has value by representing the everyday history and rural architecture of the North-West. Vernacular architecture is defined as a modest design that is specific to a region or period. It uses local materials and knowledge, in turn resulting in a traditional yet simplistic design due to a lack of professional architects.

The Cruck Frame building of Homer Green Farmhouse represents an early construction method that dates back from medieval times. Up until the late 17th Century this construction was commonplace in rural dwellings and farm buildings.



Example of a Cruck Frame Structure

6.2 Prominent Styles

Due to the rural agricultural history the buildings have a simple vernacular architecture. There is reoccurrence of detached buildings with gable roof in the form of 2-storey dwellings and converted barns.

Stanley Cottages are the most modern purpose-built dwellings in the Conservation Area but have taken characteristics of this vernacular architecture with the gable roof so there is consistency to the style.

6.3 Materials

There is a limited palette of materials and colours throughout the Conservation Area that create consistency and character. Slate tiles and red brick are commonly used for dwellings and farm buildings. The only exception to this is where render has been used for the dwelling at Holly Farm and The Laurels and the working farm building at Homer Green Farm having a corrugated roof. Sandstone is also a traditional material of the area, as it was used as foundation on vernacular buildings. A clear example of this is the barn at Broad Farm.



Typical Brickwork with Sandstone foundation and Tiling in Homer Green

Modern versions of slate tiles and brickwork can appear more systematic and modern interpretations unsympathetically contrast to the authentic historic character. Repurposed historic materials should be sourced where possible.



Inappropriate Replica Materials within Homer Green

6.4 Typical Features and Details

The traditional buildings in Homer Green were individually designed for each farmstead, however they share a variety of common architectural features which positively contribute to the character of the Conservation Area.

Stone plaques that name and date the historic house should be maintained and protected as this adds a unique quality to the property. Harsh chemicals or sandblasting should be avoided when cleaning them as this can erode the detailing.

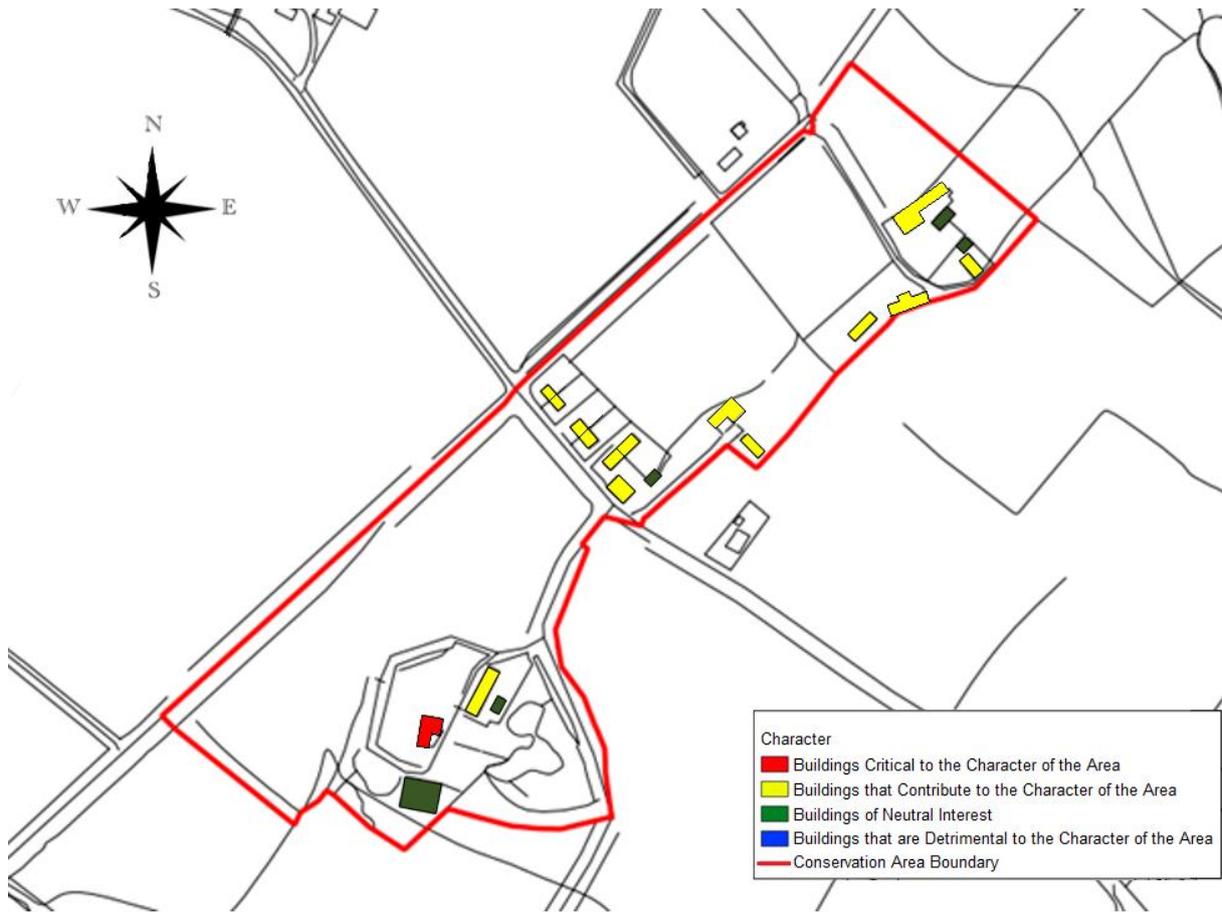
The agricultural fences on the corner of Lunt Road and Long Lane are another feature that contributes to the rural character of the area. Although their poor condition for lack of maintenance they are considered a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area.



Stone plaques on No.3 and 4 Stanley Cottage and Ivy Cottage



Decorative stone opposite Stanley Cottages and agricultural fences on the corner of Lunt Road and Long Lane



Map 12 - Character Assessment of the Conservation Area

7.0 NEGATIVE FACTORS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT

7.1 Overview

Change is inevitable to both places and building over time due to changes in lifestyles, technologies, and practicalities. However, the management and method of these changes that occur within historic buildings can be the difference between the erosion or preservation of the character, history, and quality of a place.

There are several issues within the Conservation Area which can erode the character of the area and can be summarised into the following categories.

7.2 Poor Quality Later 20th Century Development

Homer Green is fortunate to have not experienced the same intensity of development as the neighbouring settlements of Lunt or Thornton. This has contributed to the rural characteristics and significance of the designation of the Conservation Area.

The Green Belt has prevented significant development that would have a negative impact on the open and rural characteristics. Whilst Stanley Cottages have merit today, no further development of this intensity should occur within the Common Croft again due to its medieval historical and evidential value.

7.3 Unsympathetic Extensions

Despite the lack of major development, additions to individual properties have contributed to the erosion of the character through unsympathetic design and poor-quality materials.

The symmetry and simplicity of the vernacular style means that extensions can look at odds without careful consideration. Side extensions that have unsympathetic windows or roofscapes, or are of an inappropriate scale, should be avoided.



Side Extensions that off-balance the Vernacular Design and Symmetry

At some properties porches have been added to the front of properties and in principle, they should not cause significant harm due to the subservient nature. However, any porches should be sympathetic regarding scale, materials and have an appropriate roof pitch as to not detract from the traditional and vernacular characteristics of the Conservation Area.

7.4 Alterations to Historic Detailing and Materials

The erosion of small historic detailing and use of non-traditional materials can cause irreplaceable loss of significance and have a detrimental impact on the character of the Conservation Area.

Windows, Roof Lights and Doors

Many properties within the Conservation Area have replaced their original timber windows to uPVC. This is not only damaging to the historic character of the individual properties but causes harm to the wider street scene. Generic uPVC windows require thicker framing, so the original glazing bars and configuration of the window are removed, which contributes to the historic character. Timber framed windows should be encouraged when windows need replacing due to their aesthetic value and sustainable qualities of being sourced from a natural material.

The addition of roof lights to historic roofs can have an adverse impact on their character, especially if they are located on the front elevation. Roof lights, if installed, must be of a 'conservation' style, flush with the roof covering and in line with existing features of the property to not look significantly out of place.

Whilst not as common, replacement doors can also have a detrimental impact to the character of the historic environment. Where uPVC replacement doors have been installed, these are particularly obtrusive and lack the quality and detail that is found in original timber doors. Modern and generic door framings can also cause harm through not preserving the historic character, and again timber doors should be encouraged when replacements are needed.

Unsympathetic Boundary Treatment

The removal of boundary walls and the erection of modern railings has a damaging effect on the street scene, destroying the rural and visual character of the area. Inappropriate fences such as those with a generic modern design, painted a non-heritage colour, or where paint has not been maintained all detract from the openness and historic character of the Conservation Area. Traditional boundary treatments such as hedges, trees, natural or sympathetically painted timber (muted greens, browns) are encouraged.

Loss of Landscaping

Open green space and rural environment is characteristic to the conservation area. It is common at residential properties the desire for car parking often takes priority over landscaping, however when located in Conservation Areas this can have a detrimental impact on the visual quality. Natural landscaping should be retained when possible and where unavoidable, the use

of permeable surfaces should be counterbalanced with natural boundary treatments such as ever green hedging to aid natural heritage of the Conservation Area.

7.5 Development Pressures and Losses

A significant development to the Conservation Area in recent years is the conversion of vacant agricultural barns into residential dwellings. Whilst a change of use is preferred over the total loss of historic buildings, any adaptations must be sympathetic as to not cause detrimental harm to the character of the property or the rural nature of the Conservation Area.

Barns are significant as they can provide an insight into the agricultural history and purpose of the farmstead.

A converted barn must still resemble and maintain the characteristics of an agricultural barn and be sympathetic to the wider Conservation Area. To maintain the character successfully the significance of barns must be understood. For example, how the space is divided up inside, how to let in light without the installation of domestic windows (which can give the impression of a domestic house rather than a barn) and how to retain historic details such as dovecotes or original beams, or ventilation gaps.

Working with the original structure and enhancing existing features is recommended when converting barns. For example, working with the original roof slopes for extension, using existing entrance ways, using glass bricks to fill ventilation gaps, use of roof lights away from public view and any additional windows should follow to existing patterns.



A Sympathetic Barn Conversion at Broad Farm

7.6 Opportunities for Enhancement

Several methods that counteract the negative contributions to Conservation Area can be considered.

Guidance Leaflet

A guidance document has been drafted by the Conservation Team at Sefton Council on how to maintain historic properties. This includes how to undertake sympathetic repairs, issues to look out for within the home and an annual maintenance checklist. This aims to bring awareness of the importance of historic properties and to gain an appreciation for the value and pride to them.

Article 4 Directions

Guidance alone is not adequate measure to prevent all detrimental alterations. Article 4 Directions can be used to protect elements such as windows, doors, roof coverings, chimneys, porches and front boundaries by needing consent from the planning department for any changes to them. This would help manage the development within the Conservation Area, it would have to be applied to all buildings within to avoid uncertainty and confusion.

S215 Notices

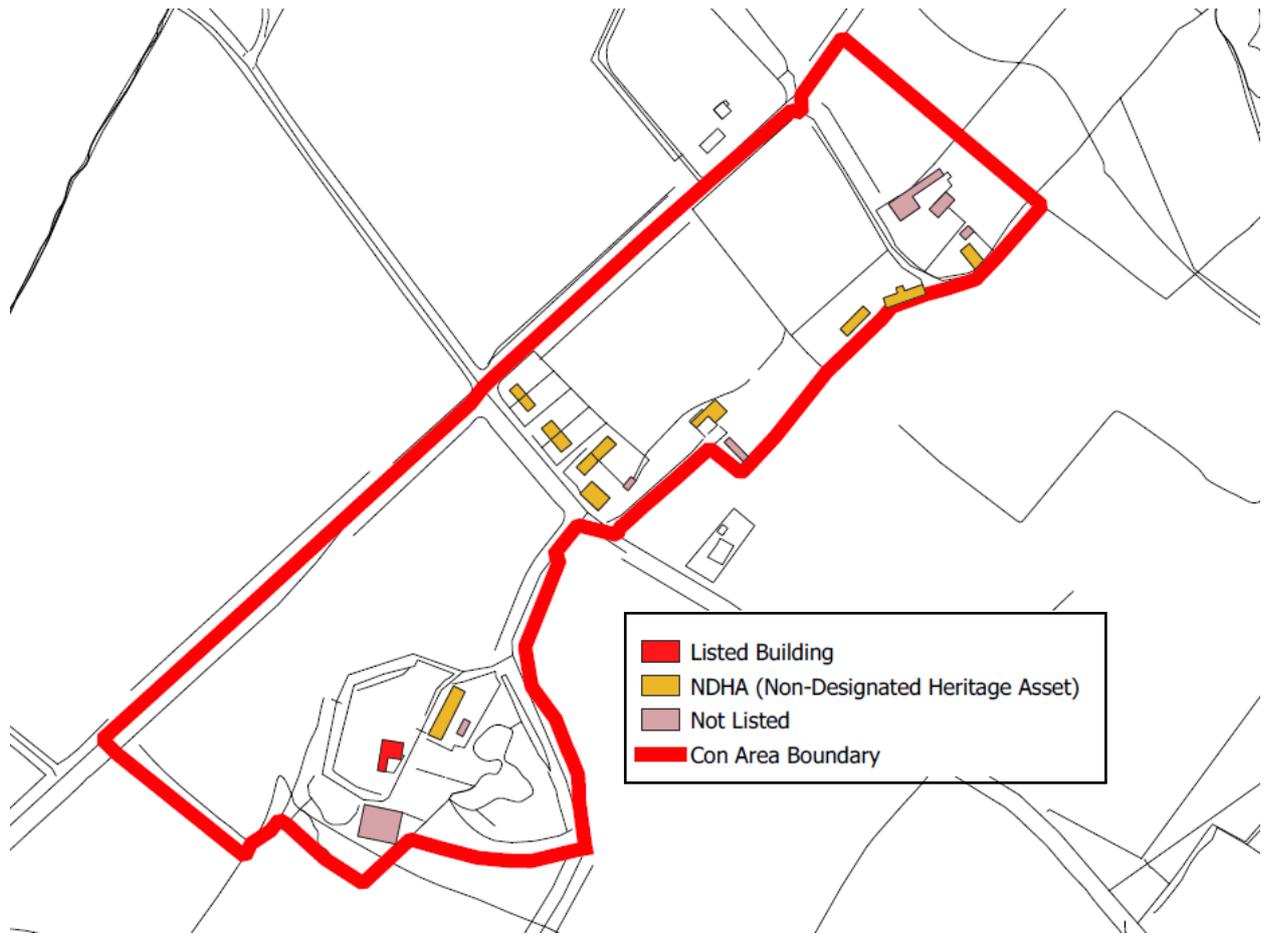
When the appearance or poor condition becomes detrimental to the surrounding area then a S215 notice should be issued by the Council. This notice would require the owner or occupier to clean up the land or deal with the poor state of the building.

7.7 Protection and Enhancement of Key Unlisted Buildings

It is recommended as part of this report that any buildings identified as being significant to the Conservation Area are preserved and protected further, as well as that any buildings that are causing harm should have appropriate measures taken to enhance them.

There is one Listed Building within the Conservation Area which is Homer Green Farmhouse and was given Grade II status in 1986. There are nine Non-Designated Heritage Assets within the Conservation Area,

- Laurel Cottage
- Barn at Broad Farm
- Broad Farm
- Holly Farm
- Barn at Ivy Cottages
- Ivy Cottages
- No. 1 and 2 Stanley Cottages
- No. 3 and 4 Stanley Cottages
- Homer Green Barn



Map 13 - Map of Listed Buildings and NDHA

Non-Designated Listed Heritage Assets have some protection in the planning application process. Paragraph 203 of NPPF states that “a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset”.

Following the analysis of the architectural details within Homer Green it is suggested that the decorative plaque at the corner of Lunt Road and Lunt Lane could be considered for NDHA status. The plaques’ location opposite Stanley Cottages and the original outline of the Common Croft contributes to the sense of place and further protection for the small detail should be considered. However, information regarding the plaques age and reasoning for its placement cannot be found.

8.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN

8.1 Introduction

The Management Plan naturally follows on from the Conservation Area Appraisal. The Appraisals identify the essential elements of the conservation areas in order to provide a thorough understanding of their character. The Management Plan is the key tool for outlining the way in which the Council will seek to preserve and enhance the Conservation Area and how it will monitor this.

Good management and maintenance are crucial to the long-term care of heritage sites, this means having the right skills and procedures in place to ensure that they are looked after in an appropriate manner. Poor management and maintenance put heritage at risk, and can lead to higher repair, restoration and refurbishment costs in the future.

Homer Green Conservation Area has a strong sense of place due to its rural setting and the architecture style of domestic houses. These distinctive elements contribute to the sense of place and therefore it is critical that they are maintained.

The purpose of Homer Green's management plan is to provide clear aims and objectives to sustain and enhance the historic environment. This will relate to specific place-based issues and will cover the Conservation Area in its entirety. A strategic framework for actions will help co-ordinate the activities of both public and private bodies, and objectives are intrinsically linked to existing and proposed Planning Policy. These policy documents and frameworks should not be read in isolation but provide a complementary suite of documents to guide development and provide solutions to manage and improve the area.

National Policy and Guidance

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in February 2019 and sets out the government's planning policies and how these are expected to be applied through the planning process. It contains a large raft of policies which are relevant to Homer Green Conservation Area, specifically that within Chapter 16 'Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment'.

Specific guidance on the NPPF is laid out in various formats particularly within the documents of Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Historic England have also produced a suite of documents that expand on and provide further advice on all different aspects of the historic environment.

Sefton Local Plan

The Local Plan was adopted in April 2017 and supplements National policy and guidance. The Local Plan sets out how new development will be managed in the period from 2015 to 2030 and encourages sustainable development and economic growth, as well as the protection of the historic environment through its specific policies. This is specifically laid out in Chapter 10 'Design and Environmental Quality' and Chapter 11 'Natural and Heritage Assets'.

Sefton 2030 vision

The Sefton 2030 vision was adopted in 2016 and sets out a vision for the future of the borough and to understand and focus on what is important for the borough and its communities. This will provide a foundation in order to stimulate growth, prosperity, set new expectation levels and to help focus on what is important for Sefton.

8.2 Negative Factors Highlighted Within the Conservation Area Appraisal

The Conservation Area Appraisal highlighted negative elements that have an adverse impact on the character of the Conservation Area. This is outlined in Chapter 7 but can be summarized as the following.

- Loss of original fabric
- Modern additions to roofscapes
- Abandonment of key buildings
- Loss of green space in private dwellings
- Loss of soft landscaping and hedges
- Lack of building maintenance

8.3 Management Plan

Issue	Action	Resources	Lead & Partners	Frequency
Development and Management				
New Development/Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine planning applications in line with planning policies • Determine planning applications in line with the key characteristics of the Conservation Area. (Ex. two storey gable roof dwellings, open space, traditional materials, etc.) • Formulation and adoption of a Design SPD 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services	Ongoing
Unauthorised Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement Protocol adopted highlighting priorities for action • Proactive surveys and monitoring • Enforcement action taken if necessary 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services	Ongoing

Barn Conversions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Barn conservation should be sympathetic and not interfere with the original appearance to preserve the rural character of the wider area ● Enforcing of unauthorised works 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services and housing standards team	Ongoing
Agriculture Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agricultural buildings should be sympathetic in design, scale and finished in neutral colours ● Proactive surveys and monitoring 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services	Ongoing
Maintaining the Rural Character				
Maintaining the Rural Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Determine planning applications in line with planning policies ● Applications in the surrounding area that are visible from the Conservation Area should be sympathetic with scale and density 	Withing existing budget	Regeneration, planning services and highways	Ongoing
Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote closer co-operation between highway engineers, planners, urban designers, landscape architects and conservation staff in order to produce and maintain a high-quality public realm ● Identify and coordinates improvements to the public realm. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Subtle road markings and yellow lines to not detract from the historic environment - Minimise new signage that could clutter the open character - Pavement maintenance should be sympathetic and not harm the existing green space - Street lighting scheme 	Withing existing budget	Regeneration, planning services and highways	Ongoing

General Maintenance				
Trees and Greenery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To maintain and enhance the character of the area attention needs to be paid to the retention and maintenance of trees and greenery, and resist planting that is contrary to the open character of the area ● Encourage the use of TPOs and review existing to ensure that they are still relevant ● Areas of land surrounding the conservation area should be kept well maintained. 		Owner and Planning Services	Ongoing
Untidy Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enforcement protocol adopted ● Use of planning powers to ensure that buildings are suitable repaired and maintained 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services	Ongoing
Monitor Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undertake an annual survey of the Conservation Area for the national Heritage at Risk register 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services	Annually
Maintenance of Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best practice guidance on the maintenance of historic buildings as been drafted. This includes advice on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness of issues - Sympathetic repair methods - Annual maintenance plan 	Withing existing budgets	Planning services	Ongoing
Environmental Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best practice guidance on energy efficiency within historic buildings has been drafted. This includes advice on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondary glazing - Use of natural, sustainable, traditional materials - Reuse and recycling of materials - Whole life performance production e.g., use of cast iron rainwater goods 	Within existing budgets	Planning services	Ongoing

	-Retrofit plan			
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8.4 Monitoring and Review

Clear and measurable historic environment objectives and targets are likely to deliver more effective outcomes. Monitoring these outcomes can have the beneficial effects of:

- Improving future plans and strategies.
- Identifying where Article 4 directions may be needed.
- Highlighting where supplementary planning documents may be required.
- Highlighting where development outside of planning control, such as highways, may compromise strategic objectives and solutions are required.

Monitoring the historic environment helps reduce the risk of deterioration of the character and key assets within. Heritage at Risk surveys of listed buildings and conservation areas are done every year to assess their condition and gives the opportunity to raise any concerns. Photographic surveys of all buildings and open spaces should be taken to have a detailed record of the Conservation Area. General observations are also valuable for getting a feel of the area.

When monitoring the historic environment, the following indicators should be taken into consideration,

- Progress in the prevention of small-scale changes to the historic environment. For example, tarmacked front gardens, unsympathetic front boundaries and modern additions to the roofscape like antennas/front facing skylights.
- Adaption of traditional repair techniques. For example, lime-based repointing and repurposed tiles and bricks.
- Progression implementing enhancement opportunities. For example, uPVC windows, traditional gates, replacing lost features like chimneys pots and householder using an annual maintenance checklist.
- The design quality of new development. For example, the use of good quality materials and completed to a high standard.
- Seek viable uses for the vacant buildings.

The management plan should be reviewed cyclically with appropriate updated made when required.

9.0 RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS FOR CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY

9.1 Designated Boundary

The boundary from designation is tightly surrounding the agricultural dwellings encompassing the Common Croft and Homer Green Farm.

The historical significance of the Conservation Area is the medieval Common Croft. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to extend the boundary any further as it would take the focus away from the central feature of the historic asset unless appropriate.

9.2 Proposed Amendments to the Boundary

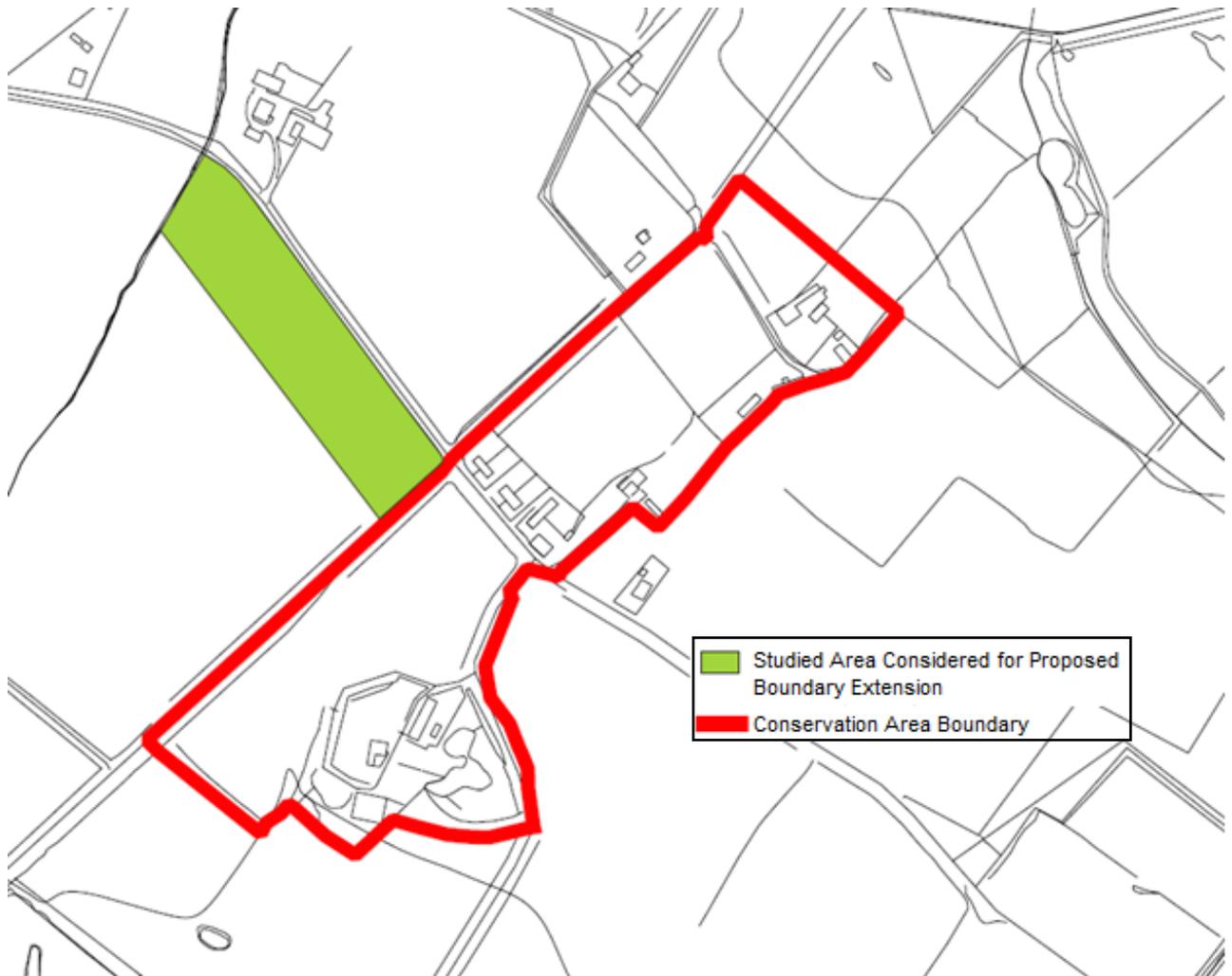
Historically, Homer Green comprised of one of two Domesday ploughlands, which are mentioned on the 1769 Molyneux Estate map. One of the ploughlands is already included in the boundary located behind Laurel's Cottage. The other ploughland is located north of Long Lane parallel to Lunt Road, which falls outside the boundary of the existing Conservation Area.



View of the original Domesday ploughland north of Homer Green Conservation Area

At present, this area is still used as farmland and the only development that had been on the land was a cottage at the crossroads which has been demolished since 1984. Due to the

medieval significance of the land, it was considered whether to include it within the Conservation Area.



Map 13 – Studied Area Considered for Extension to the Conservation Area boundary

It is noted that a key contributor to the rural character is the openness of the surrounding fields similar to the former ploughland. We have considered extending the Conservation Area Boundary to include the studied area but have decided that it is not necessary as it is felt that existing planning restrictions such as the Green Belt hold enough weight to protect this area from insensitive development and overextending the boundary would diminish the significance of the Conservation Area.

9.3 Unsuitable Amendments to the Conservation Area Boundary

Red Brick House

Red Brick House is a Non-designated Heritage Asset, and its construction was prior to 1845. The site is consistent with the character of the Conservation Area and the rear historic barn is

likely to have been for agricultural purposes originally. However, the layout of the property has remained consistent with the 1769 Molyneux map and suggests that this dwelling was associated with Jn. Whitby's Land. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to include this property in Homer Green Conservation Area, where the historic significance stems from the use of the Common Croft.



Red Brick House, Broad Lane

Park View

Park View, Lunt Road is a detached dwelling located west of the Conservation Area boundary and was constructed not long after Stanley Cottages (between 1925 and 1938). Similar to Stanley Cottage's it was built in a simplistic traditional style, having the gable roof and red brick.

However, the individual building does not share the same historic value as Stanley Cottages and recent modern alterations to the property such as the uPVC windows, a front extension and contemporary boundary treatment have diminished its historic value. Therefore, it would not be a suitable addition to the Conservation Area.



Park View, Lunt Road

Brooms Cross

Wayside Crosses were common practices in the medieval period between the 9th and 15th Century. They were used to link ordinary settlements, provide boundaries, or link ordinary settlements with religious sites like churches or guide religious ceremonies.

Brooms Cross is located in between Thornton and Homer Green and became a registered schedule monument in June 1997. It is located on one of the pathways leading through medieval fields toward Homer Green and onwards to St Helen's Church in Sefton.

The Cross marks where historically the main road would have been and implies Homer Green's farmland made the village far larger than it is today. Whilst significant, it does not directly relate to the Conservation Area's designation and already has some protection from being a scheduled monument.



Brooms Cross

APPENDICES

A. Bibliography

Books

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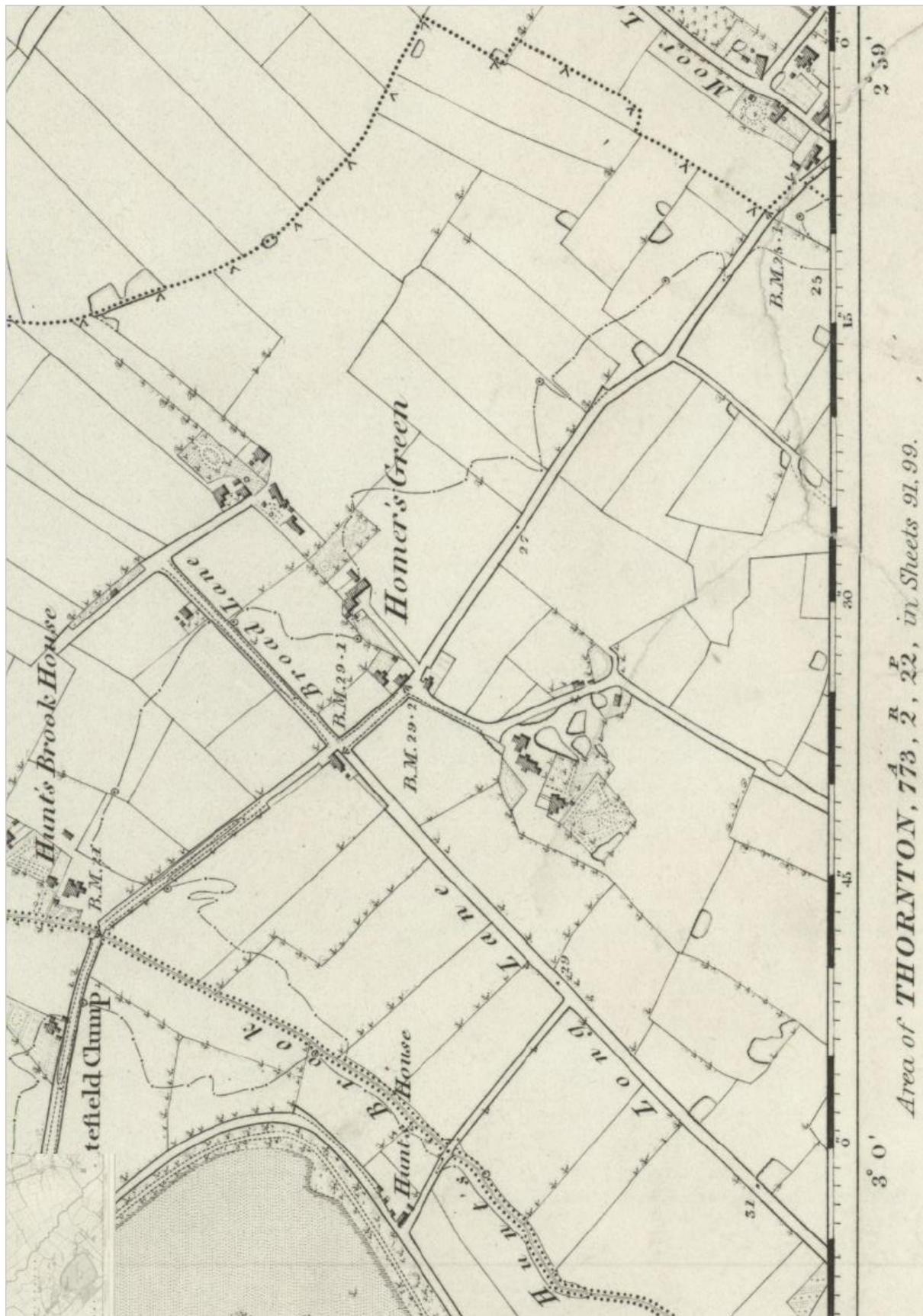
B. Illustrated Sources

Page	Title	Source
Page 13	1849 Ordnance Survey Map	http://www.maps.nls.uk
Page 15	1769 Molyneux Estate Map	Lancashire Archives
Page 36	Drawing of the Barn at Lunt Lane	Sefton Archives
Page 38	Example of a Cruck Frame Building	Brunswick, R.W (1981) <i>Traditional Buildings of Britain: An Introduction to Vernacular Architecture</i> . Victor Gollancz Ltd., London.

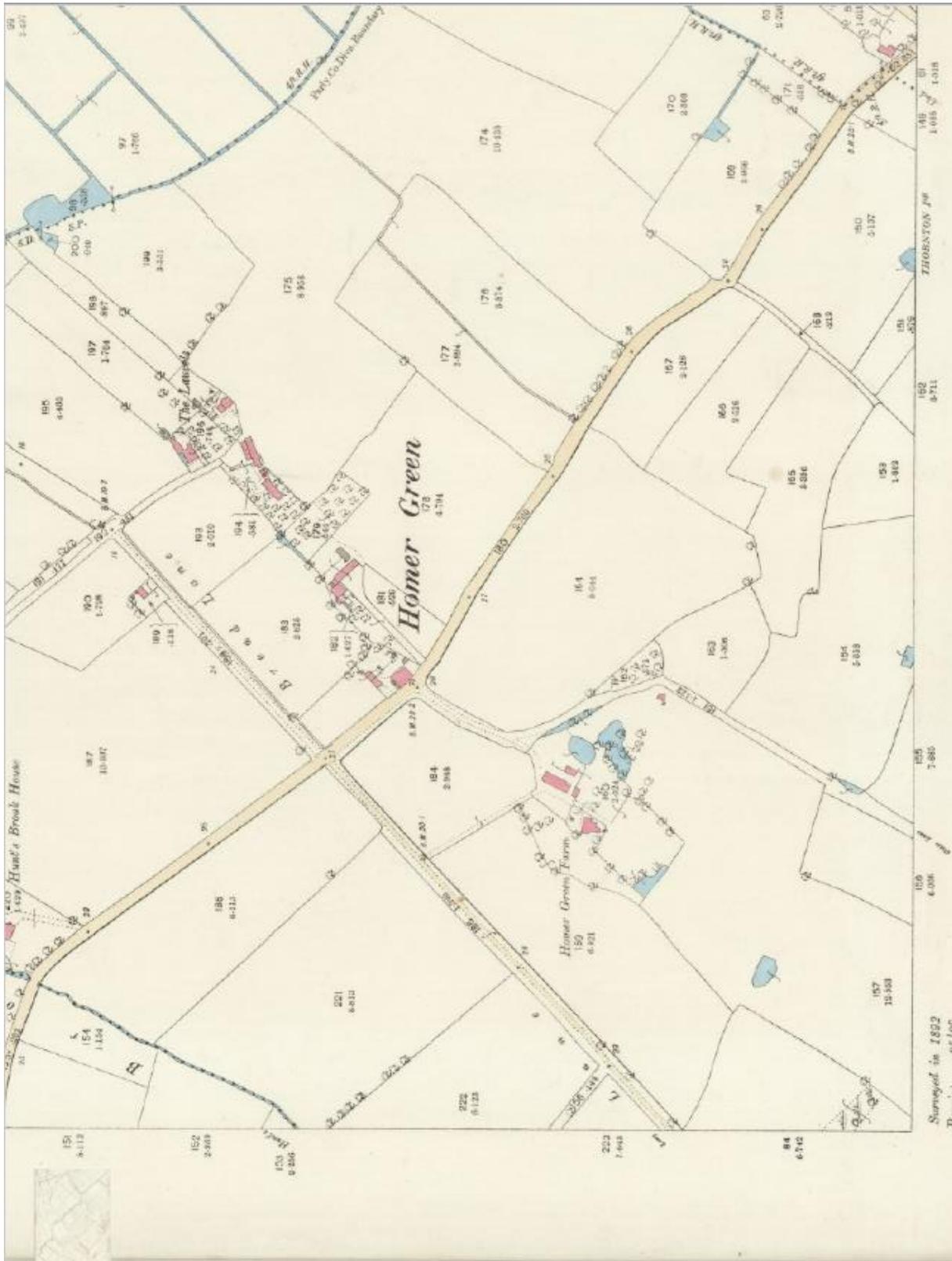
C. HISTORIC MAPS

This appendix contains the following maps:

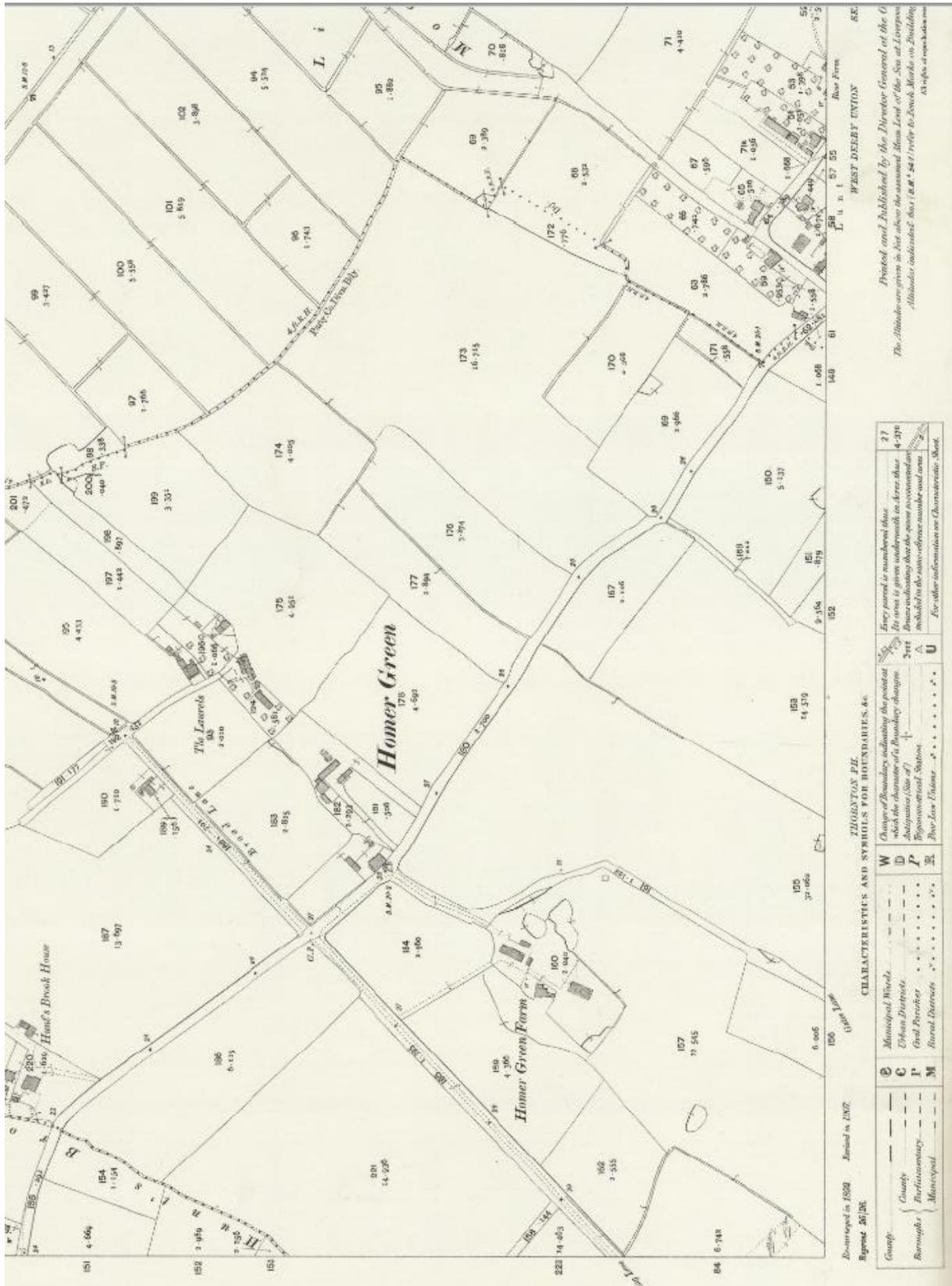
- Ordnance Survey Map 1849
- Ordnance Survey Map 1893
- Ordnance Survey Map 1908
- Ordnance Survey Map 1927
- Ordnance Survey Map 1947
- Molyneux Estate Map 1769



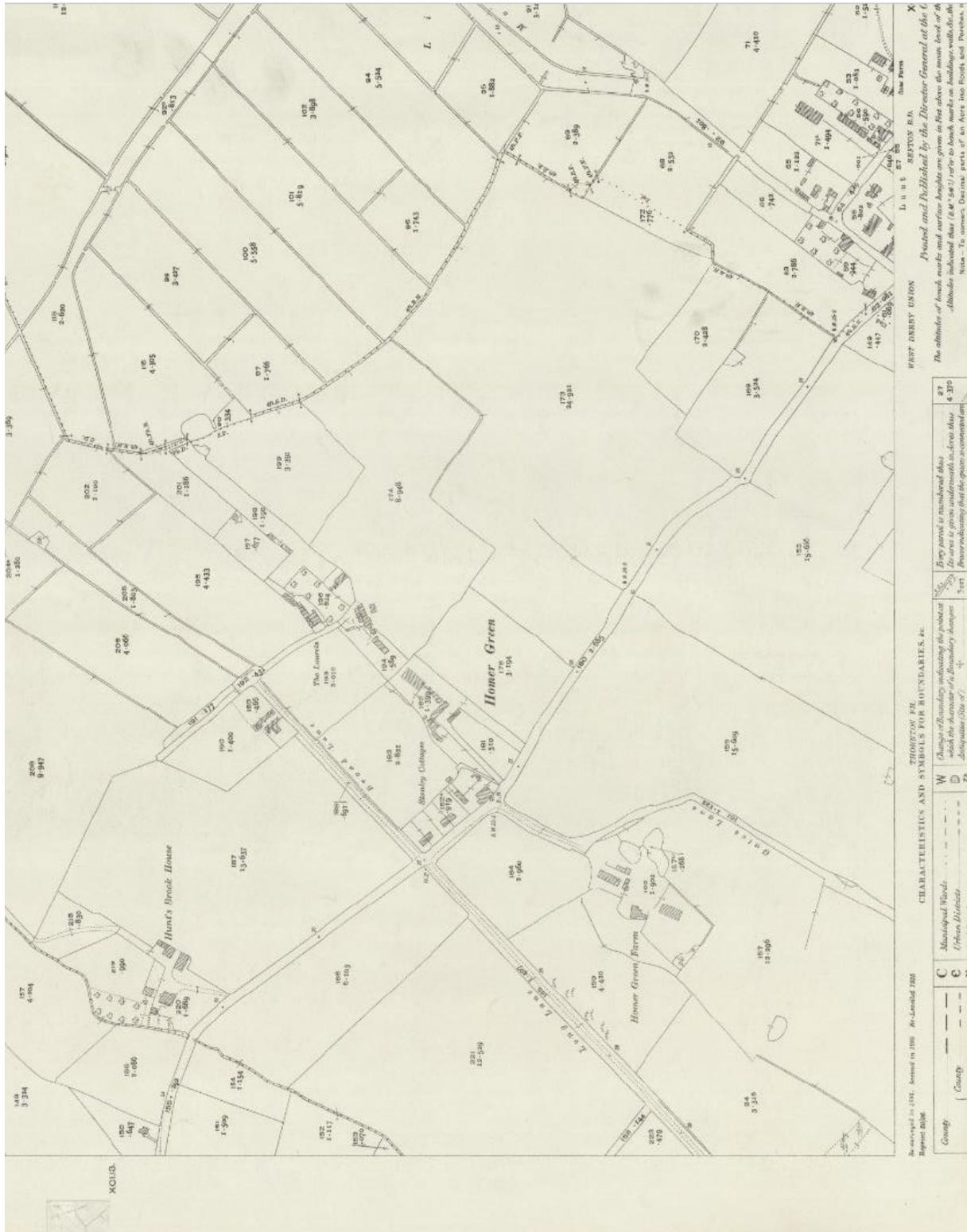
Ordnance Survey Map 1849: Reproduced from National Library Scotland



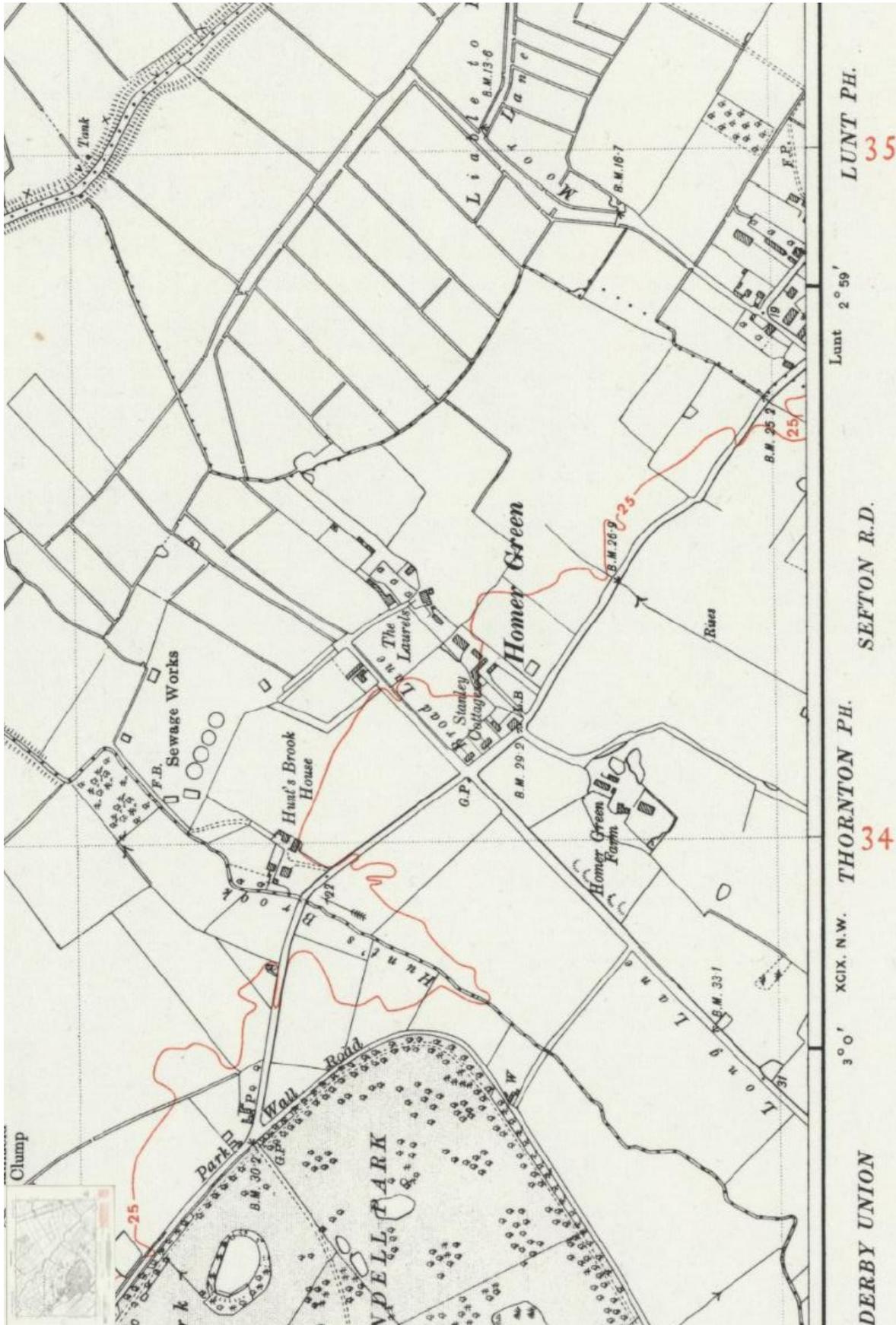
Ordnance Survey Map 1893: Reproduced from National Library Scotland



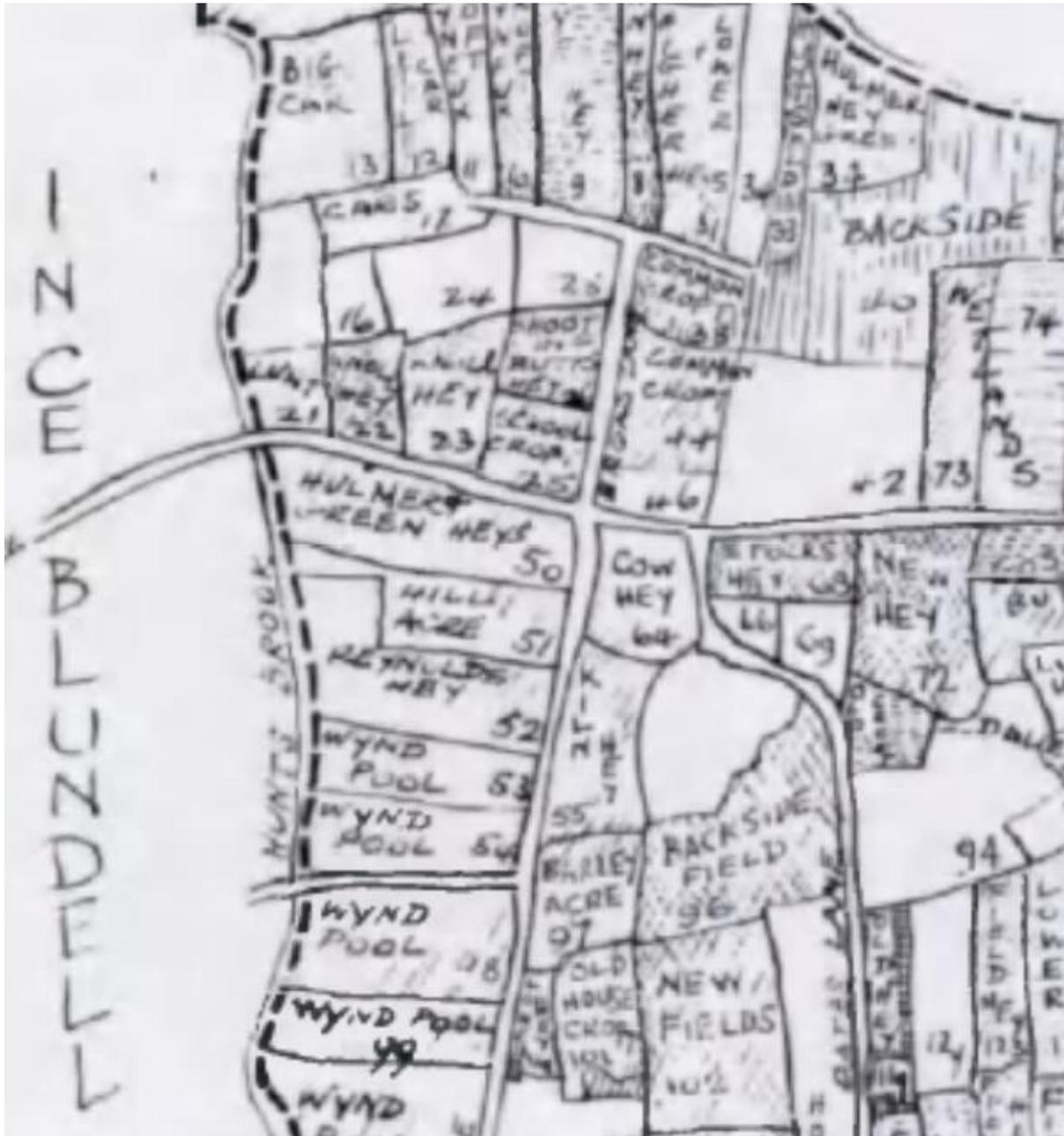
Ordnance Survey Map 1908: Reproduced from National Library Scotland



Ordnance Survey Map 1927: Reproduced from National Library Scotland



Ordnance Survey Map 1947: Reproduced from National Library Scotland



Molyneux Estate Map 1769: Reproduced by Sefton Council

D. Historic Images



1990 – Barn at Lunt Lane



1999 –The Laurels



1990 – Stanley Cottages



1990 – Barn at Broad Farm



1990 – Holly Farm



1990 – Park View, Lunt Lane



1990 - Ivy Cottages, Lunt Lane



2007 - Barn at Holly Farm



No Date – Drawn Record of Homer Green Farmhouse

E. Glossary

Architectural features: A prominent or characteristic part of a building. Examples of architectural features are windows, columns, awnings, marquee and fascia.

Conservation: The process of managing change to a heritage asset in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

Conservation area: An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Cruck frame: A cruck or crook frame is a curved timber, one of a pair, which support the roof of a building, historically used in England and Wales.

Detrimental: Tending to cause harm.

Fabric: The material substance of which places are formed, including geology, archaeological deposits, structures and buildings, construction materials, decorative details and finishes and planted or managed flora.

Gable: The triangular upper part of a wall at the end of a ridged roof.

Glazing bars: A bar or rigid supporting strip between adjacent panes of glass.

Harm: Change for the worse, here primarily referring to the effect of inappropriate interventions on the heritage interest of a heritage asset.

Heritage: All inherited resources which people value for reasons beyond mere utility.

Heritage asset: A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest.

Historic environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed flora.

Impact: May refer to Visual Impact, an impact upon visual aspects of the setting of a heritage asset, or to Physical Impact, a direct impact upon the physical remains of the asset.

Listed Building: A listed 'building' can be any man-made three-dimensional structure which is on 'The national list' – it might be anything from a pump to a cathedral. A building is listed when it is of special architectural or historic interest considered to be of national importance and therefore worth protecting.

Listed Building Consent (LBC): Mechanism by which planning authorities ensure that any changes to listed buildings are appropriate and sympathetic to their character. It helps to protect what is a rare and unique resource.

Maintenance: Routine work regularly necessary to keep the fabric of a place, including its setting, in good order.

Moat: a deep, wide ditch surrounding a castle, fort, or town, typically filled with water and intended as a defence against attack.

Non-designated Heritage Asset: buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets.

Permitted development: Permitted development rights allow the improvement or extension of homes without the need to apply for planning permission, where that would be out of proportion with the impact of the works carried out. Permitted Development rights do not apply to listed buildings, nor do they apply to development within the curtilage of a listed building.

Planning permission: Formal permission from a local authority for the erection or alteration of buildings or similar development.

Plinth: The lower square slab at the base of a column / the base course of a building, or projecting base of a wall.

Ploughlands: A measure of land used in the northern and eastern counties of England after the Norman conquest, based on the area able to be ploughed in a year by a team of eight oxen.

Repair: Work beyond the scope of maintenance, to remedy defects caused by decay, damage or use, including minor adaptation to achieve a sustainable outcome, but not involving restoration or alteration.

Restoration: To return a place to a known earlier state, on the basis of compelling evidence, without conjecture or the introduction of new material.

Reversible: Capable of being removed so that the previous state is restored without loss of historic fabric.

Scheduled Monument: An archaeological site which has been scheduled for protection. It is an offence to undertake works within a scheduled area without Scheduled Monument Consent.

Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC): Must be made to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport before any work can be carried out which might affect a monument either above or below ground level. Some change may also require planning permission, which should be obtained from the Local Planning Authority.

Setting: The immediate and extended environment that is part of – and contributes to – the significance and distinctive character of a heritage assets, and through which a heritage asset is understood, seen, experienced and enjoyed.

Significance: The value of a heritage asset to past, present and future generations because of the sum of its embodied heritage interests. Those interests may be archaeological, architectural, historic or others. Significance also derives from its setting.

Survey: Fieldwork for individual building or archaeological sites which look for physical evidence to support proposals to the heritage asset.

Sustainable: Capable of meeting present needs without compromising ability to meet future needs.

Vernacular: Rural vernacular or traditional architecture is the construction of small plain buildings in the countryside where the dominant influence in siting materials, form and design is the local ‘folk tradition’. Such vernacular buildings will have been typical, i.e. of a common type in any given locality and will lack individualistic and ‘educated’ design features that characterised international fashions in formal architecture during the same period.

response ('Your Sefton Your Say'), 2 questionnaires completed during the event and 1 questionnaire completed during a private meeting with a resident.

Within this six-week consultation period, a drop-in event session was held on 4th October 2023 at the Sunshine Tea Rooms, inviting residents, local business and stakeholders to come and have their say on the appraisal. A series of display boards highlighting the essential character and special interest of the Conservation Area provided a summary of the content of the appraisal, including pictorial and historical map information showing how the area had developed and evolved over time.

26 people in total attended the drop-in session for the three conservation areas, 7 of them were from Homer Green Conservation Area.

A summary of the main points raised are as follows:

- Request of speed bumps and speed limits signs for the area. Alterations should be in-keeping with the character of the conservation area. The request should be sent to the appropriate department for consideration.
- Poor maintenance of the surrounding field. This was amended accordingly.
- Sandstone used as traditional material in vernacular architecture. This was amended accordingly.
- Amendments to the boundary to include the Long Lane entire width. There is not enough reason to include this section inside the Conservation Area boundary.
- The inclusion of the brick house into the conservation area boundary. This has been reviewed in section 9.3 of this appraisal. It is considered that sufficient information has already been provided regarding the reasons why it is not considered for inclusion into the Conservation Area boundary, no amendments were necessary.
- Railing on the corner beside the plinth as an important feature of the Conservation Area. This has been amended accordingly.
- Implementation of a street lighting scheme. This was amended accordingly.
- Further information was received regarding the Holly Farm. This has been amended accordingly.
- No comments were received regarding the use of an Article 4 direction. An Article 4 direction would not be adopted as part of this plan.
- Unsympathetic alterations as dormers and demolition of historic buildings. These issues had been raised in the appraisal; no amendments were necessary.