



St Mary's Conservation Area Landscape Appraisal

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A report for Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

By

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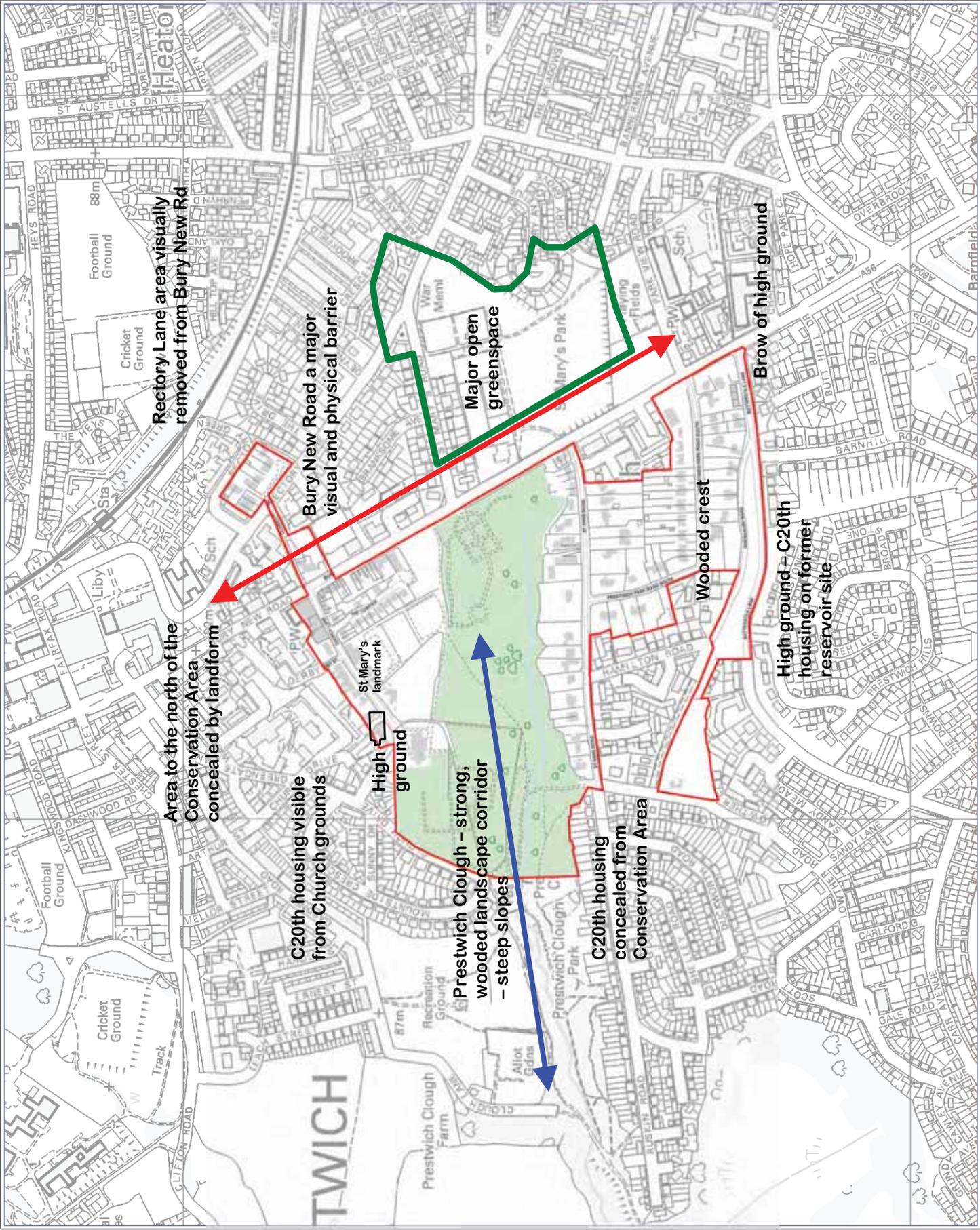
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Landscape Appraisal complements a previous study of St Mary's Conservation Area undertaken in 2006, which included:
- A review of the Conservation Area boundary
 - An appraisal of the special architectural and historic interest of the area
 - Recommendations for an action plan.
- It became clear that the character of the Conservation Area was very much based on the open spaces and landscape elements that form the backbone of the area. Consequently a more detailed landscape appraisal was required. This study therefore aims to understand these landscape qualities and the issues raised and to make recommendations on future management. The study will inform the St Mary's Conservation Area Management Plan being prepared by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council.
- 1.2 This appraisal sets out briefly the planning and strategic context for the Conservation Area, including a consideration of several studies already undertaken for specific elements of the area, namely the Conservation Management Plan for St Mary's Churchyard and the Survey and Development Plan for Prestwich Clough. This study also considers the future management of the Conservation Area within the current Prestwich Town Centre Development Strategy and as part of the broader Prestwich Forest Park initiative.
- 1.3 The study also considers the historical development of the Conservation Area, in particular, the various significances this illuminates, and presents a thorough landscape and visual appraisal based on character zones devised for the St Mary's Conservation Area Management Plan. Following an assessment of the key management issues, conservation policies and landscape management recommendations are put forward for consideration in the final management plan being prepared by Bury Council. An important aspect of the landscape appraisal was to consider the setting of the Conservation Area and particularly the integral link with Prestwich Clough. The current Conservation Area Boundary and its context are shown on **Map 1**.
- 1.4 As previously mentioned, a considerable amount of information on the historical development of the area, together with landscape surveys of St Mary's Churchyard and Prestwich Clough, has already been undertaken and we acknowledge their contribution to this landscape appraisal. We would also like to thank Ian Pringle and David Dutton for valuable information provided and the St Mary's Conservation Area Steering Group for their support.



Date	Drawing Details	Revision



Client	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
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2. Planning and Strategic Context

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section refers to local planning policies affecting the landscape setting of the Conservation Area. In addition, the main findings to come out of recent studies pertinent to the landscape character of the Conservation Area are summarised and finally an appreciation of the wider planning initiatives, which have a bearing on the future management of the Conservation Area, is given.

2.2 Local Planning Context

2.2.1 The preservation of the character and appearance of conservation areas is governed by The Planning Act of 1990 (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) and other planning legislation. Further advice is given in PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment. In respect of listed buildings, of which there are 14 within the Conservation Area, their demolition and alteration are also controlled by the 1990 Planning Act. A full description of the 14 listed structures is given in Appendix A of *St Mary's Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Study*, April 2006.

2.2.2 With reference to the many mature trees that add considerably to the character and appearance, those within the Conservation Area are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) as a blanket designation. Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that anyone proposing to cut down, top or lop a tree in a conservation area must give six weeks notice to the local planning authority. The purpose of this is to give the local authority an opportunity to make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). In addition, several mature trees on the outside boundary of the Conservation Area have been designated with TPO's (see Map 10 in *St Mary's Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Study*, April 2006).

2.2.3 Within the Conservation Area there are 23 entries on the Sites and Monuments Record, most of which (21) relate to St Mary's Church and surrounding area. A full description of these sites is given in Appendix B of the Conservation Area Appraisal and the sites identified on Map 6. Of the remaining 2 records, they include St Mary's Park (9341.1.0) and the site of an earlier building at Oak Hill on the corner of Butterstile Lane (9953.1.0). A more detailed description of the various listed structures and archaeological sites is given in the *St Mary's Churchyard Conservation Management Plan* and an *Archaeological Assessment of Prestwich Clough*, both summarised below.¹

¹ Further informative descriptions can be found in a recent booklet, *St Mary Prestwich – A Description of the Churchyard*, written and produced by Ian Pringle, 2008.

2.3 Relevant Studies and Initiatives

St Mary's Park Conservation Area Appraisal and Study, Woodhall Planning and Conservation, April 2006

- 2.3.1 A selection of recommendations and policies contained in this document relevant to the landscape management of the Conservation Area are quoted below. Our Landscape Appraisal aims to expand upon and address some of the general policies put forward.

Preservation

Trees

(Para 18.06) Trees make an important contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and to its setting. Many are already covered by tree preservation orders but it is recommended that the Council undertake a comprehensive tree survey of the whole of the Conservation Area, plus its setting, to determine whether additional tree preservation orders are required.

Policy: The Council will generally resist proposals to cut down, top or lop a tree in the Conservation Area.

Open Spaces and Gardens

(Para 18.07) There are several areas of open spaces within the Conservation Area that are very important to its character. These include the churchyard around St Mary's Church, St Mary's Park and Prestwich Clough. All these spaces need to be protected from built development. In addition, the Rectory is set within landscaped grounds, which also need to be protected from inappropriate development.

Policy: The Council will generally resist all proposals to construct new buildings on open spaces within the Conservation Area.

(Para 18.08) The character of the area is partly established by the pattern of past development, which generally consists of substantial houses in large plots. Proposals for re-development should maintain the ratio of built-form to plot size that is typical of the area.

Policy: The Council will resist proposals that would result in the over-development of plots to the detriment of the character of the Conservation Area.

Hedges

(Para 18.22) Many of the properties in the Conservation Area have hedges along their boundaries and these are an important feature of the area, contributing to its character and appearance. Those along front boundaries are very important within the street scene, helping to delineate the public and private spaces.

Policy: The Council will discourage the removal of hedges that contribute to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area.

Enhancement

Trees

(Para 19.03) Trees are a particular feature in the Conservation Area but they mature and die. Therefore every effort should be made to provide for new and replacement tree planting within new developments.

Policy: The Council will encourage the planting of new and replacement trees where appropriate as part of all developments within the Conservation Area.

Boundary Walls and Hedges

(Para 19.05) Boundary walls and hedges have been removed from some properties. Therefore every opportunity should be made to provide or restore walls and / or hedges to property boundaries.

Policy: The Council will encourage the provision and / or reinstatement of boundary walls, railings and / or hedges.

Public Realm

(Para 19.08) Within the Conservation Area there is a wide variety of materials used for paving. Along some roads, such as Church Lane, some stone flags remain but elsewhere tarmac has replaced the traditional materials. Also, there are a variety of signs and other street furniture, particularly along Bury New Road, which results in visual clutter. All this is detrimental to the character and appearance of the area.

(Para 19.09) It is recommended that the Council prepare a public realm strategy that can be used to provide a consistent and appropriate approach to all works within the public realm, including work by the utility companies. This should allow for a programme of repair and replacement of paving and lighting columns so that consistency is achieved within different sections of the Conservation Area. It is also recommended that the strategy should include specific proposals for works to Bury New Road to rationalise all street furniture, including signage.

Site Specific Proposals

Churchyard around St Mary's Church

(Para 20.02) The south and west sections of the churchyard suffers from a lack of maintenance. The grass and bramble area is particularly overgrown to the west of the church. To the south the

area suffers from self-seeding trees which are affecting the gravestones. Also within the graveyard there are a number of monuments which are in a poor condition.

(Para 20.03) Also, the small structures to the north of the church (the hearse house and toilets) are poorly maintained and have an adverse impact on the setting of the Grade 1 building.

(Para 20.05) It is recommended that the church authorities, local residents and the Council meet to consider proposals for the improvement and long-term maintenance of the churchyard, gravestones and monuments and the hearse house and toilets.

Prestwich Clough

(Para 20.06) The water course that runs through the Clough has canalised elements which are suffering from a lack of management and maintenance. At certain points natural erosion of the water bank has left the stone walling prone to damage by high water volumes. This creates a poor visual appearance for this part of the Clough.

(Para 20.07) It is recommended that the Council and the Environment Agency liaise to discuss proposals for the management and maintenance of the watercourse.

Rectory, Church Lane

(Para 20.11) The treatment of the boundary of the rectory which runs along the footpath adjacent to St Mary's Church is a poor quality concrete fence.

(Para 20.12) It is recommended that the church authorities, local residents and the Council meet to consider proposals for the enhancement of the boundary.

St Mary's Church Prestwich, Churchyard Prestwich, Greater Manchester, Conservation Management Plan, prepared by Kathryn Sather & Associates, ECUS Ltd, and Byrom Clark Roberts, March 2008

- 2.3.2 A comprehensive CMP has recently been produced for St Mary's Churchyard. The plan includes a detailed understanding of the site, its significances and issues of vulnerability, and a set of conservation management policies. The plan is supported by a number of appendices including a schedule of individual significances, landscape plans, ecological reports, conditions surveys, maintenance plan, and a detailed gazetteer of areas, structures, features and monuments.
- 2.3.3 As the churchyard forms a central core of the Conservation Area the plan contains much useful information relevant to this Landscape Appraisal, especially historical development and current landscape condition. This information has helped in the writing of the following sections. Of particular importance are the CMP Policies, which our management recommendations for the Conservation Area will seek to address. Relevant landscape policies include:

Setting

Policy S1: To restore and maintain the prominence of St. Mary's Church and Churchyard as a landmark feature within the Irwell valley and as a key link to other local green spaces

Boundaries

Policy B4: To reinstate an appropriate boundary treatment between the Churchyard and Prestwich Clough (This could take the form of a hedge boundary or a fence but the impact on the current open aspect between the Churchyard and the wooded clough needs to be considered.)

Views, Planting Layout and Vegetation

Policy V1: To identify and restore historically significant views from the Churchyard particularly those towards the Clough and across the Irwell Valley. To ensure that unsightly features are not revealed.

Policy V2: To conserve existing views from within the site and assess the impact of any proposed planting and its mature size on views within and out of the site.

Policy V3: To identify and protect key viewpoints into the site from the surrounding area and identify future changes that could impact on views to the Churchyard.

Planting Structure

Policy PS1: To conserve and manage existing vegetation

Policy PS2: To use the tree and vegetation survey that has been carried out to develop detailed proposals for work required to:-

- *Open views and remove vegetation / trees*
- *Identify areas of damage to structures by tree and shrub roots*
- *To identify tree surgery required for health and safety reasons*
- *Make an inventory of significant trees and clear around them in order to highlight their form*

Policy PS3: To carry out selective and appropriate tree surgery as required by individual proposals

Policy PS4: To carry out the planned management of existing vegetation and undertake new planting where appropriated

Policy PS5: To carry out improvements to existing ornamental planting (bordering main entrance E2)

Policy PS6: Consider establishing the distinct landscape character 'C' as a natural burial area with appropriate contemporary planting

Ecology

Policy EC1: To assess the impacts of any development proposals on bats and their roosts

Policy EC2: To ensure that invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed do not become established within the Churchyard

Policy EC3: To avoid unnecessary removal or fragmentation of wildlife habitats. If this is unavoidable then mitigating measures should be implemented to improve wildlife habitats elsewhere on or adjacent to the site

- 2.3.4 Other policies stated in the plan cover entrances, topography, circulation, site furniture, user needs, interpretation / education, maintenance, vehicular access, retention of significance, and management and co-ordination.

Prestwich Clough and St Mary's Church – Survey and Development Plan, prepared by Bury MBC in partnership with St Mary's Church, Red Rose Forest and the Friends of Prestwich Forest Park, 2002

- 2.3.5 This report is in two parts, the first being a survey of existing conditions, including ecology, landscape character, and recreation. The second part puts forward proposals for improvement, including restoration of specific sites. Community consultation formed a key part of the study. Like the previous CMP document, this report provides useful information for those areas within St Mary's Conservation Area including the wooded clough and St Mary's Churchyard. Again our Landscape Appraisal seeks to complement the management proposals put forward in this document.

Prestwich Clough Archaeological Assessment, prepared for Bury MBC, February 2002

- 2.3.6 The report found that the archaeological potential of Prestwich Clough, outside of St Mary's Churchyard, was very limited, with little indication that the Clough had any relevance to the prehistoric, Roman or medieval periods. The Clough does contain evidence of industrial activity from at least the late 18th century, including an old bleaching croft at Old Engine Cottage and Clough Works, an extensive bleaching and dyeing works of 18th century origin. The latter, located at the south western end of the Clough, includes significant earthwork remains including a number of former millponds and remains a site of regional archaeological significance.
- 2.3.7 The report states that St Mary's churchyard has considerable archaeological importance with the possibility that the site may have been a pre-Christian enclosure, although there is no direct evidence to substantiate this. The Churchyard is also thought to be at least early medieval in origin. The site is of national significance and has great potential for further archaeological study.

Love Prestwich Village – Town Centre Development Strategy, prepared for Bury MBC by URBED, 2008

- 2.3.8 A new vision for the future development of Prestwich town centre is currently out to public consultation. The vision for Prestwich is, “... *that it becomes a sustainable urban village – like Hampstead in London, Moseley in Birmingham, or Chorlton in Manchester...*” The vision is broken into 5 themes, one of which – Gateway to Parkland – is relevant to St Mary's Conservation Areas, “... *Prestwich will be the gateway to the two extensive areas of parkland, Heaton Park and the Croal Irwell Regional Park – the Hampstead Heath and Wimbleton Common of the North, which will become Manchester's urban playground...*”
- 2.3.9 Other strategic statements that link to the future management of the Conservation Area include improvements to Bury New Road (reducing the carriageway width to create wider pavements with street trees and permanent short stay parking bays) and the treatment of Church Lane with cobbles and flagstone pavements.

Prestwich Forest Park

- 2.3.10 Prestwich Forest Park is an initiative of the Red Rose Community Forest which comprises an area of 225 ha of restored and reclaimed land offering a diverse park and woodland setting for many formal and informal recreational activities. Along with Prestwich Clough and St Mary's Conservation Area it includes the historic designed landscape of Philip's Park. The Forest Park is now part of a larger initiative to create the Croal-Irwell Regional Park.

3. Historical Background

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The number of studies already produced, where the site of St Mary's Conservation Area is included, has resulted in a wealth of information on the historical development of St Mary's and Prestwich Clough (see **Appendix 1 Bibliography**). The aim of this brief section is therefore not to repeat this understanding but to summarise the key dates in the chronological development of the Conservation Area as a basis for analysing how the area has evolved to form the landscape we see today.

3.2 Site Chronology – Key Dates

3.2.1 The historic development of St Mary's Conservation Area is summarised using key dates outlined below.

Early History

Prestwich Manor and Lands

Prestwich, which lies on the Roman Road from Manchester to Ribchester, is thought to derive from the Saxon words for priest ('prest') and retreat or dwelling place ('wych'). This possibly indicates that there may have been a Saxon church and churchyard on the site prior to the Norman Conquest. However, there is no mention of a settlement at Prestwich in the Domesday Book. By 1212 Prestwich was a manor held by the family of the same name. In the 14th century the manor passed to the de Radcliffe family and then the Langleys and in the late 16th century the manor passed to the Coke family who began to sell off parts of the estate for residential development in the late 18th century.

The church was also a major landowner in the area during the medieval period. These 'Glebe' lands included the area either side of Bury New Road, which became St Mary's Park in the 1930s. Early maps of the general area included Yate's County Map of 1786 and Greenwood's County Map of 1818 (see **Appendix 2**, which includes extracts from all historic maps from 1786 to the modern OS series).

St Mary's Church

The main body of the church building is thought to date from the 14th century with the prominent tower being erected in the 15th century. The church sat within a circular enclosure as described in notes made by Arch Deacon Rushton, during a visit in 1778. The church is described as "*...situated on an eminence and surrounded by a neat fenced hedge which the present Rector has set around with a mixture of beech and fir trees interspersed and kept with becoming decency...*" (The trees were still present in 1935 but have since been removed) Although much of the medieval church survives, various enlargements and alterations were undertaken during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Prestwich Village

The 2006 Conservation Area Appraisal summarise the early development of the settlement as follows, "... it is likely that it was a very small agricultural village clustered around the church. However, the settlement may have had a scattered form, as the ancient Rectory (a timber-framed house known as the Deyne and demolished in 1837) was some distance from the church on Rectory Lane. By the late 18th century there were buildings along Church Lane, including the Church Inn (originally known as the Ostrich) and a large L-shaped forge building. Also there were mid-18th century cottages in Ramsbottom Row..."

St Mary's Conservation Area from the 19th century onwards

1811 Nos 32-34 Church Lane were constructed and a substantial house called Spring Bank (the present Conservative Club) dates from this period. The latter building had extensive terraced gardens – the upper and middle terraces are now car parks and the lower terrace a bowling green.

1824 The original circular churchyard was extended westward through a land purchase from a Mrs Oldham. By 1827 the newly extended churchyard was enclosed with a stone wall on its north, south and east sides with new metal entrance gates.

1827 Construction of Bury New Road (turnpike) on the alignment of the Roman road from Manchester to Ribchester, thus facilitating an exponential rise in new development

1839 The Tithe Map reveals the Conservation Area largely as an open area of agricultural fields with the wooded clough running through the valley bottom. The fields around the Churchyard at that time, including Church Bank and Bellhouse Croft are owned by John Owen.

1849 Prestwich Clough well known by Victorian naturalists as a site of botanical interest, with reference to the population of autumn crocus near the church and pendulous sedge in the boggy areas of the Clough appearing in Buxton's Botanical Guide to Manchester.

1850 The first edition OS Map shows the Conservation Area prior to subsequent development. From 1851 onwards the area to the south of Prestwich Clough, known as Prestwich Park was developed as a private residential estate on land owned by George Scholes of 'High Bank'.

1863 George's Terrace, an elevated terrace block with large retaining wall, built on Church Lane

1864 Churchyard extended further westward

1879 The former Conservative Club on Church Lane was built to a design by William Dawes. It had a corner turret and a fine top-lit billiard room on the first floor. (The building is now use for offices and has lost its corner turret feature.)

1881 Beech Tree Bank in Rectory Lane originally built as two pairs of semi-detached villas.

- 1886** A triangular area of land on the south west side of the churchyard was purchased from Mr. John Slingsby on 6th May to accommodate burials from the neighbouring Asylum. A new stone wall was built to enclose the southern boundary of this extension.
- 1891** The first edition OS Map, scale 25" to 1 mile shows the extensive development of former fields to the south of the Clough to become Prestwich Park villa landscape. The land to the north of the Clough remained open pasture / meadow land.
- c1900** Photographs taken around 1900 showing the central area of Prestwich Clough as virtually devoid of trees.
- 1904** Prestwich Urban District Council was given the Clough by William Gardner and bought Gardner Mount, also known as Spion Kop.
- 1906** The Clough is opened to the public as a recreational ground with walks along the 'Dingle' complete with tea room and bandstand. Edwardian postcards depict a relatively open environment with well maintained gravel paths and rustic bridges of interwoven boughs and branches. The stream was largely canalised with stone revetment walls and new ornamental tree planting had been carried out.
- 1910** The second edition OS Map, scale 25" to 1 mile shows the layout of the Clough as well as new residential development within the empty plots between Prestwich Park Road South and St Ann's Road.
- 1923** A new Rectory adjacent to the church was built by architects Taylor and Young with an imaginative half-butterfly plan. Its garden area to the south was originally a bowling green used by the Church Inn.
- 1925** Churchyard enlarged again with a large plot on the south side and extending to the south of the Rectory (the field formerly known as Church Bank) being acquired by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from Frederick Wilson Cooper.
- 1931** St Mary's Park including the formal Flower Garden and Bandstand was developed on land acquired from the church adjacent to Bury New Road
- 1936** The third edition OS Map shows the layout of the new park in detail, along with the improvements made to Prestwich Clough.
- 1951** The development of the Conservation Area is shown on a further edition of the OS Map. During the second half of the 20th century many of the individual plots within the Prestwich Park estate were developed, re-developed or sub-divided, first with bungalows and then with blocks of flats.
- 1973** A centenary garden commemorating the existence of Prestwich Local Board, which became the Urban District Council, prior to local government re-organisation is developed in the

north east corner of St Mary's Park. This feature has now gone along with many other recreational features that could be found throughout the park and Clough.

1990s The most recent development of significance within the Conservation Area has been the construction of the houses in The Coppice on the south side of Church Lane.

3.3 Historic Analysis

- 3.3.1 Map evidence and a number of 'then and now' photographs are included in the appendices, but a number of significant themes can be further illustrated. These include how the Conservation Area evolved from a rural landscape to today's scene, the importance of the visual relationship between the church and the surrounding area, and the development of the ornamental / recreational landscape of Prestwich Clough and St Mary's Park.

From farming landscape to today's Conservation Area

- 3.3.2 An overlay of the early Tithe Map of 1839 on a present day OS base illustrates how the Conservation Area has changed from a wholly rural area to the south of Prestwich Village to the mix of character areas which exist today (see **Historic Analysis Map**). The major change has been in the area to the south of the Clough where former pasture and clover fields have been transformed into Prestwich Park residential development from the mid 19th century onwards. It is interesting how some of the previous field boundaries have been encapsulated by the new road layout, such as Prestwich Park Road South, which led to a plant nursery site sloping down to the Clough.
- 3.3.3 The other area that has changed considerably are the old meadows immediately south of Church Lane, which have seen the development of various recreational facilities, the new Conservative Club at Spring Bank and more recently 'The Coppice' housing area. The open pasture and meadow areas of Bell House Croft, Church Bank and Cock Glade have remained as 'landscape' areas but their character has changed markedly with the development of the churchyard and more latterly St Mary's Park. The wooded nature of the steep Clough has been the one constant throughout the recent evolution of this landscape.

Visual influence of St Mary's Church

- 3.3.4 St Mary's Church, at the historic core of Prestwich village, occupies the high ground and its tower has become a significant focal point in the Conservation Area. Early postcards and photographs show how the church could be readily seen from a number of locations within St Mary's Park and Prestwich Clough. These views today are almost totally obscured by the growth of trees and shrubs which have been planted and more recently by un-managed scrub regeneration (**Fig 3.1**).

Church Bank

- 3.3.5 An area that has changed most dramatically in recent years is the former pasture field known as Church Bank. This field was purchased by the church in 1925 to enable the extension of the churchyard. Part of the former field was consecrated, but the main part of it remained as open

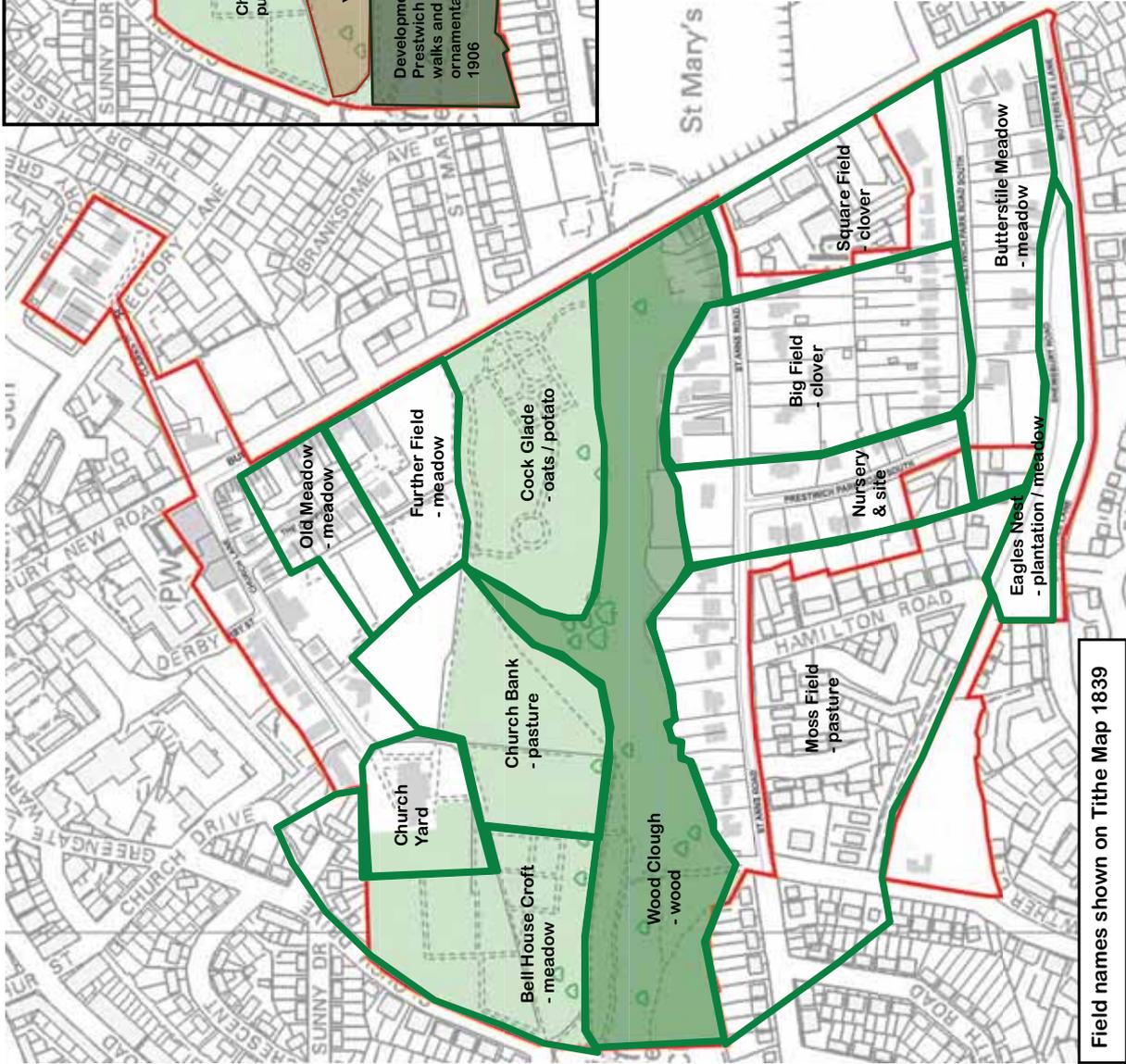
grassland until very recently (**Fig 3.2**). An oak scrub area has naturally regenerated on the bank since the 1980s obscuring views to and from the church.

Prestwich Clough and Gardner Mount

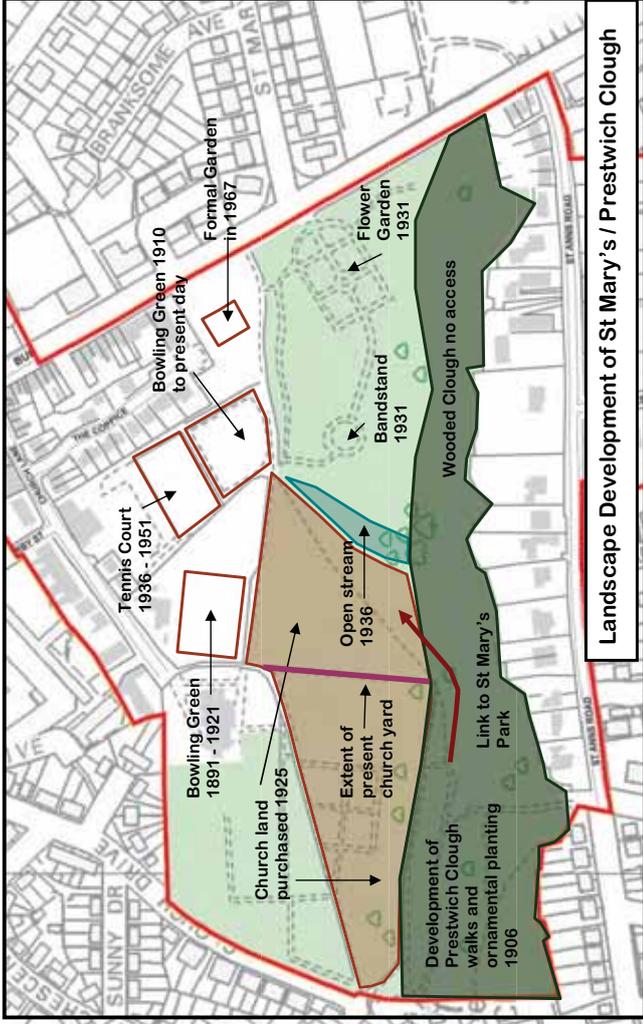
- 3.3.6 Prestwich Clough, together with area known as 'Gardner Mount', was purchased from local landowner William Gardner by Prestwich Urban District Council in 1904, with the aim of creating a public recreation ground for a fast growing local population. The Clough was laid out with walks embellished with steps, rustic bridges and seats and originally included a tea room and a bandstand. Often referred to as the 'Dingle' the Clough was also planted with amenity trees and rhododendrons. It was officially opened to the public in 1906. Many of these features have now gone although the beech mound known as Buckley's Plantation still survives as an attractive landscape feature within the Clough (**Fig 3.3**).
- 3.3.7 Gardner Mount, above the 'wooded' Clough area was an equally important open space with superb views of the church and over the Clough as a whole (**Fig 3.3**). It complemented the valley character of the Clough and the promontory, which was the unofficial viewing platform, became the site of the local War Memorial in the 1920s. Part of the area was turned over to allotments, surviving today, with the flatter areas forming a playing field. The original stone gate posts giving access to Gardner Mount still survive and match the gateway entrance from St Ann's Road on the other side of the Clough.

St Mary's Park

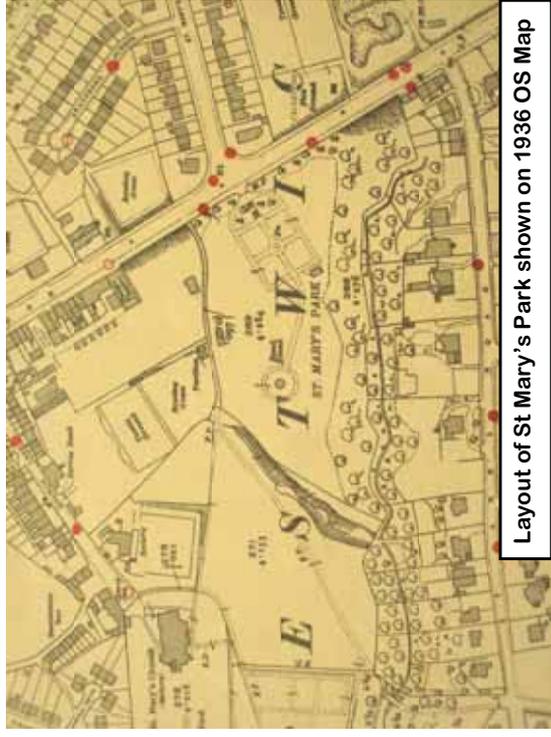
- 3.3.8 With the popular development of the Clough as a public recreation ground, Prestwich Urban District Council acquired the former Glebe land adjacent to Bury New Road and extended the park facilities to include a flower garden, further playing fields with small pavilion, a new bandstand, and public toilets. The landscape development of this part of the Conservation Area is shown on **Fig 3.4**. There is enough illustrative material available (plans, photographs and possibly information in past Council Committee minutes) to be able to complete a detailed picture of this area during its formative years. Fig shows how the quality and character of the area, particularly the flower garden, has changed between its official opening in 1931 and the present day.



Field names shown on Tithe Map 1839

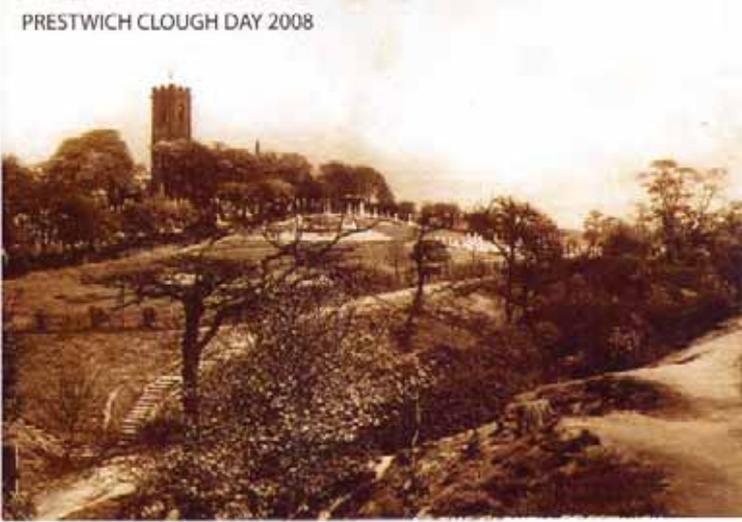


Landscape Development of St Mary's / Prestwich Clough



Layout of St Mary's Park shown on 1936 OS Map

PRESTWICH CLOUGH DAY 2008



View 1: View of church from across the Clough in the early 20th century, now lost to woodland understorey



View 2: View from St Mary's Flower Garden showing how the church tower is mostly obscured by subsequent vegetation growth



View 3: This view of the dingle with the church in the background has changed considerably since the 1920s



View 1: A 1950s postcard view from the church tower showing a clear view of St Mary's Flower Garden and Church Bank below



View 2: The same view in 1979 showing the growth of trees but Church Bank retaining its open, meadow aspect (I. Pringle photo)



View 3: The same view today showing a totally wooded aspect and a close up of the recent scrub development on Church Bank



View 1: View of the Bandstand site prior to its construction c1900, illustrating the Clough's 'open nature' and the same view today



View 2: Early view of the beech mound known historically as Buckley's Plantation - one of the few landscape elements to remain



View 3: View of the church from Gardner Mount and the same view today dominated by woodland regeneration



Flowerbedsopening.tif

View 1: The opening of St Mary's Flower Garden and Park by the Early of Derby, October 1931, and the same view today



View 2: The change in quality and character of the flower garden can clearly be seen between 1968 and the present day



View 3: The flower garden constructed 1967 below Bury New Road to commemorate the centenary of Prestwich Local Board has now gone