

2: Introduction: Context within North Manchester

The conservation area lies on the southern edge of Prestwich village, adjacent to the A56 and at a mid point between Manchester and Bury. The area is primarily to the west of the highway and located around and to the south of Church Lane, the medieval core of the settlement. It is a large conservation area which also covers St Mary's Park and Prestwich Clough, containing both formal and informal open space and woodland. It also has a strong element of 19th and early 20th century residential development around St Ann's Road and Prestwich Park Road South, and a separate quarter around Rectory Lane to the east. More recent suburban development is all around the area, and this together with the growth of landscape cover, partially hides the undulating topography which was central to establishing the early importance of the settlement.

3: Conservation Area Boundary

The 2006/2007 appraisal of the Conservation Area and the 2008 reviews undertaken by the working group re-assessed the area boundary. Both extensions to and deletions from the Conservation Area were put forward at that time. These were considered as part of the community consultation and the assessment of the proposals by the Council. In February 2008 Planning Control Committee decided to delete the Methodist Church, Bury New Road, and new housing on Prestwich Park Road South, from the area. However, in March 2009 Prestwich Clough, Gardener Mount, the former bleach works site at Buckley Lane, and walls, gates and street trees along Hamilton Road and St Ann's Close were added into the conservation area. The current Conservation Area boundary is shown in Fig. 2 over.