



Animal Containment Fence, Knowsley Safari

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Client: Knowsley Safari

NGR: 346018 394556 to 346345 393570

Local Planning Authority: Knowsley Council

Planning Reference: TBA

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Executive Summary

Prospect Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by Knowsley Safari to consider the archaeological and built heritage implications of a new animal containment fence extending along the western boundary of the safari park (from NGR 346018 394556 to NGR 346345 393570). The fence measures c.3200m in length and links into the existing zoo perimeter. Knowsley Safari is located within the Grade II Registered Park & Garden of Knowsley Park (NHL 1000997)

A park was first recorded in this location in the 13th century, owned by Robert de Lathom. Through marriage, the estate passed to the Stanleys in 1385 and has remained in the family ever since. Sir Thomas Stanley was created Earl of Derby in 1485 by Henry VIII. Throughout the medieval and early post-medieval period, Knowsley Park was a hunting park surrounded by a pale. The park was landscaped in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Some of the landscape may have been designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

The fence route extends from the safari entrance at the southern end, passing south, then west and north of Mizzy Dam to climb over Hag Brow to the east side of Park Farm then turning west along the north side of the farm and back south to the hay barns south of Garden Wood.

There is a low potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to exist, there being no archaeological sites or finds recorded in the 1km search area with the exception of two prehistoric worked flints. No further archaeological investigation is considered justified in advance of development should planning permission be granted.

The fence, whilst more visible than the previous fencing when crossing open parkland, is not considered to be significant in terms of the setting of the Registered Park.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of reporting and appropriateness of recommendations. This report is based on information available at the time of writing, from the sources cited. It does not preclude the potential for future discoveries to be made, or for other unidentified sources of information to exist that alter the potential for archaeological impact. Any opinions expressed within this document reflect the honest opinion of Prospect Archaeology. However, the final decision on the need for further work rests with the relevant planning authority.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1.1 Prospect Archaeology Ltd has been appointed by Knowsley Safari to consider the archaeological and built heritage implications of a proposed new Africa Hoof House (NGR 346004 394885). The proposed development involves the construction of a new animal house in a field between the existing hoof house and Park Farm within the Knowsley Safari.

1.1.2 This report has been prepared in accordance with the NPPF 2021, Section 16 'Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment', the standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2017), and guidance provided by Historic England's Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance (2008) and The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017). Relevant legislation and planning policy is included as Appendix 1, and the assessment methodology is included as Appendix 2.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The c. 775m² site is located on the site of the existing Africa Hoof House and Park Farm at Knowsley Safari, Knowsley, East Merseyside. The site is on a gentle slope to the north-west, c. 80m above Ordnance Datum.

1.3 Geology and Topography

1.3.1 The geology of the Site comprises Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 319 and 318 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. There is no recorded superficial geology (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>).

2.0 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

2.1 Built Heritage

2.1.1 Built heritage includes listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, and scheduled monuments. It also includes non-listed buildings of local architectural or historic interest which are included in the Historic Environment Record. All statutorily protected built heritage assets are of national importance.

2.1.2 The historic built environment is assessed in accordance with the procedures set out in Historic England Advice Notes. Of particular significance in this report is The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 (2nd Edition) (Historic England 2015). Within this document a staged approach is proposed:

Step 1: identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected

Step 2: assess whether, how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset

Step 3: assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance

Step 4: explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm

Step 5: make and document the decision and monitor outcomes

2.2 Buried Heritage

2.2.1 The buried heritage (archaeology) has been considered through desk-based assessment. On

the advice of the Merseyside Planning Archaeologist, a summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site is included but not a full gazetteer of the HER entries. A full list of referenced sources is provided and references are given. Staff at the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) gave advice and information about known archaeological sites of interest in the vicinity of the study area, and where relevant, these were further investigated. Relevant primary and secondary sources were consulted where available.

2.2.2 Additional sources consulted included: information available on a variety of internet sites including, The National Archives (<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>) and the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>); the Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk); and data from Pastscape (www.pastscape.org.uk). A full list of sites accessed can be found in the Bibliography section. A site visit was undertaken.

2.2.3 The historical development of the site has been established through reference to these sources and is described in the Baseline Conditions section of this report. This has been used to identify areas of potential archaeological interest. Each area of archaeological potential has been assessed for its archaeological significance in geographical terms, although it should be noted that despite the national policy guidance's reliance on geographical significance, there is no statutory definition for these classifications:

- International – cultural properties in the World Heritage List, as defined in the operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
- National – sites or monuments of sufficient archaeological/historical merit to be designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Other sites or monuments may also be considered of national importance but not appropriate for scheduling due to current use(s) or because they have not yet been fully assessed;
- Regional – sites and monuments of archaeological or historical merit that are well preserved or good examples of regional types or that have an increased value due to their group associations, regional rarity or historical associations.
- Local – sites and monuments of archaeological or historical interest but that are truncated or isolated from their original context and are of limited use in furthering archaeological or historical knowledge.
- Negligible – areas of extremely limited or no archaeological or historic interest. These commonly include areas of major modern disturbance such as quarries, deep basements etc.

2.2.4 The concluding chapter of this document summarises the findings and provides an opinion on the potential for archaeological remains to be identified, the likely importance of such remains should they exist and the likely impact of the proposed development. Recommendations for further work are provided.

3.0 Baseline Conditions

3.1.1 The assessment of existing conditions has been based on a study area extending 1km from the boundary of the proposed development. This enables the significance of existing and potential archaeological features to be considered in their local context. The significance of elements of the historic environment that could potentially be affected by the proposed

development is outlined below and this

- 3.1.2 The source of the monuments and events (Figure 1) noted in the following text are from the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record (NMR), and the National Heritage List for England (NHL) and have the prefixes DME (HER Designations), MME (HER monuments), EME (HER events) or NHL. Where sites, finds or events lie within the redline boundary they are indicated in **bold**. Known and suspected archaeological remains are summarised and discussed in the following sections.

3.2 Archaeological background

Prehistoric – Early Medieval

- 3.2.1 There are two entries in the HER that indicate possible prehistoric activity locally, one a possibly Neolithic tool, believed to be a knife (MME16074) and the other a flint flake (MME16075). Both were found to the north of Chain Acre Wood, over 800m to the north of the Site. There are no Roman or Early Medieval period monuments or finds within 1km of the Site.

Medieval

- 3.2.2 The earliest record of Knowsley is the entry in the Domesday Book which indicates a manor, *Chenulueslei*, existed prior to the Norman Conquest but provides no details other than the name of the Lord – Uhtred or Uctred. In 1086, Roger of Poitou was Lord, but no population is recorded. (<https://opendomesday.org/place/SJ4395/knowsley/>)
- 3.2.3 The medieval and later development of the Site is entirely as part of the designated heritage asset, Knowsley Park, discussed below. The vast majority of HER entries within the search area relate to Knowsley Park and references to undesignated heritage assets of relevance to the Site are included in that discussion.

3.3 Designated Heritage Assets

- 3.3.1 The Site lies within the Registered Park and Garden, Knowsley Park (NHL 1000997, MME5874). This is discussed below. There are no other designated heritage assets within the search area.

Knowsley Park (NHL 1000997, MME5874)

- 3.3.2 A copy of the list entry for Knowsley Park is included as Appendix 1 of this report. In addition, a comprehensive review of Knowsley Park's historical development was produced by A Sholl in 1985 for the Groundwork Trust. The information contained within the list description and the Sholl report is used here in describing the significance of the location of the proposed development and how the proposed development impacts on the significance of the designated heritage asset. The list description details the following elements:

- Location, area, boundaries, landform, setting
- Entrances and approaches
- Principal building
- Gardens and pleasure grounds
- Park
- Kitchen garden



- 3.3.3 The proposed development lies within the park, some considerable distance from the principal building, gardens and pleasure grounds, and the kitchen garden and these are therefore mentioned only when they provide context for the historical development of the Site.

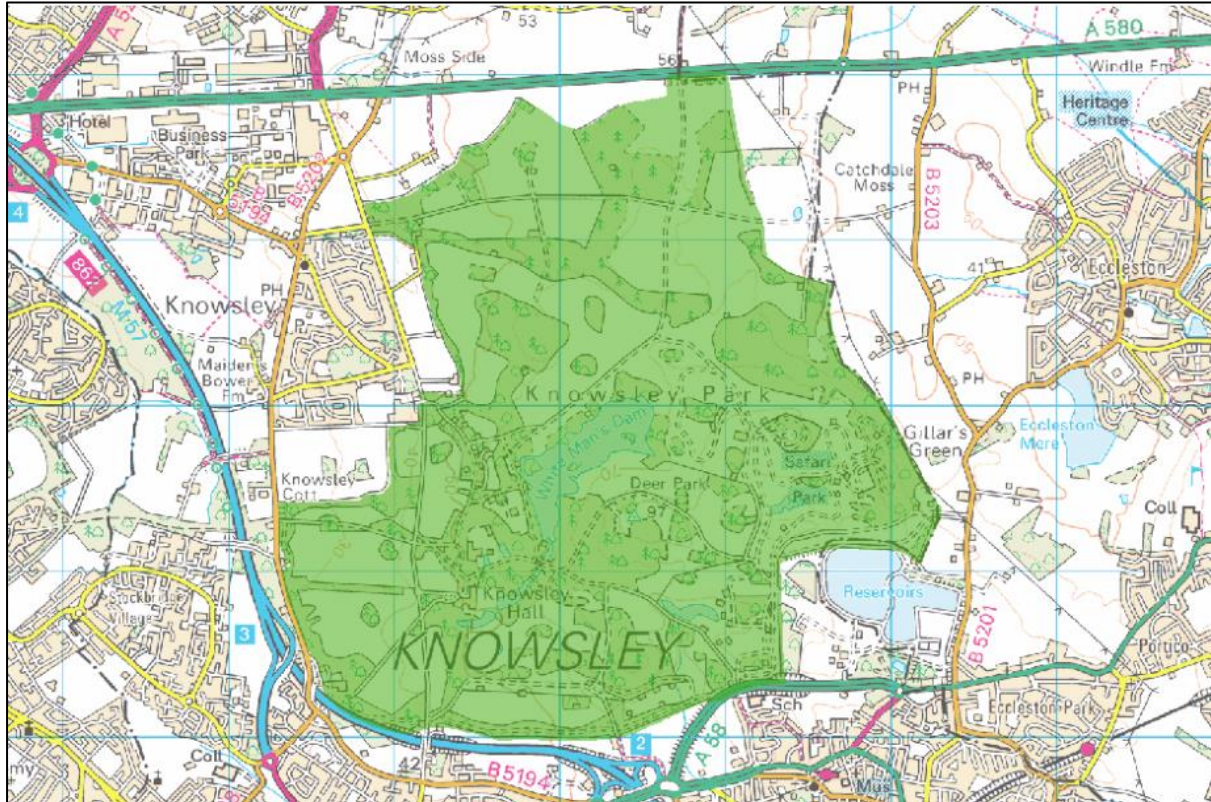


Figure 2: Knowsley Park NHL 1000997

- 3.3.4 A park is first recorded at Knowsley in 1292, in the ownership of Robert de Lathom who held “certain wood that his father enclosed with paling” (Museum of Liverpool 2011). It is likely that at this time it was a wooded hunting ground, carved out of the forests that dominated the area. The estate passed to the Stanley’s through the marriage of Isabel Lathom and Sir John Stanley in 1385 and it has remained with that family to the present day. In 1485, Lord Stanley was created first Earl of Derby by Henry VII in thanks for his support of the King at the Battle of Bosworth.
- 3.3.5 A chapel dedicated to St Leonard, but also known as Rydings or Rydyngs Chapel is recorded in Knowsley as belonging to Burscough Priory from the 12th century onwards (MME6131). It was located on Riding Hill, and it is likely the chapel went out of use in the 15th century, the land having been exchanged for a house known as Derby Place in London. The presence of the former chapel is recorded in field names into the 18th century.
- 3.3.6 Knowsley Hall is located just over 1km to the west of the fence line. Many of the earliest elements of the park are likely to have been focused on the site of the current Knowsley Hall, which is itself believed to be located on the site of the earlier 14th century hall. The hall has been rebuilt, extended and refurbished on multiple occasions, including the construction of the Royal Lodgings for a visit by King Henry VII in 1485. The park is first recorded to have been extended in the 14th century (Sholl 1985).

- 3.3.7 The park is shown in the 1577 Saxton map of Lancashire (<http://library.lancs.ac.uk/maps/Map2G1577.jpg>) and continues to be shown as an enclosed parkland in county maps throughout the 17th and 18th centuries. Knowsley only became the primary family residence in 1660, after the restoration of the monarchy (the 7th Earl of Derby, James, having been executed and Lathom House having been razed following a (second) siege by Parliamentarians in 1645; <http://www.lathomparktrust.org.uk/the-civil-war-period/>). During the Interregnum, the deer park had been laid waste and timber felled.



Figure 3: Extract from 1577 Saxton map of Lancashire

- 3.3.8 The current layout is primarily that designed in the 18th century. There are two records of payments for designs made to the renowned landscape garden designer Lancelot 'Capability' Brown in 1775 and 1776 although no plans survive of what elements he may have contributed. It is possible that he was involved in the creation of White Man's Dam (formerly the Great Lake, Great Dam or Great Water) which was certainly extant by 1780, although Pevsner suggests this may have been present as early as 1720.
- 3.3.9 A mid-late 17th century plan (as reproduced in Sholl 1985) shows limited features in the vicinity of the fence line, although deer are shown in the area later occupied by the Mizzy Dam and field boundaries cross the area. To the west, a small square enclosure and an adjacent structure (MME20774) appear in the location of a 19th century tower known as The Stand (MME6133) on Stand Hill. Near to these is the possibly 17th century lead statue known as the White Man (MME12783), which gave its name to the lake. Between the Stand and the fence is a group of trees. The presence of the deer suggests the Site was within the deer park at this time.
- 3.3.10 In the early 18th century, more formal planting appears to be present and, at the southern end of the Site, a linear racecourse was shown on paintings of this date, with a starting chair on the eastern side of Riding Hill. A summerhouse is shown on paintings by Tillemans dating

to c.1730 on Riding Hill. Another summerhouse known as The Octagon, designed by Robert Adam, was built on the site of St Leonard's Chapel on Riding Hill in 1755 (MME5870) with a sundial (later removed to the Hall's gardens), stone urns and statues located amongst hedges forming concentric circles around the summerhouse (Sholl 1985). Nearby was a fountain (MME5869), although the date of this is unknown and it had been removed by 1893.

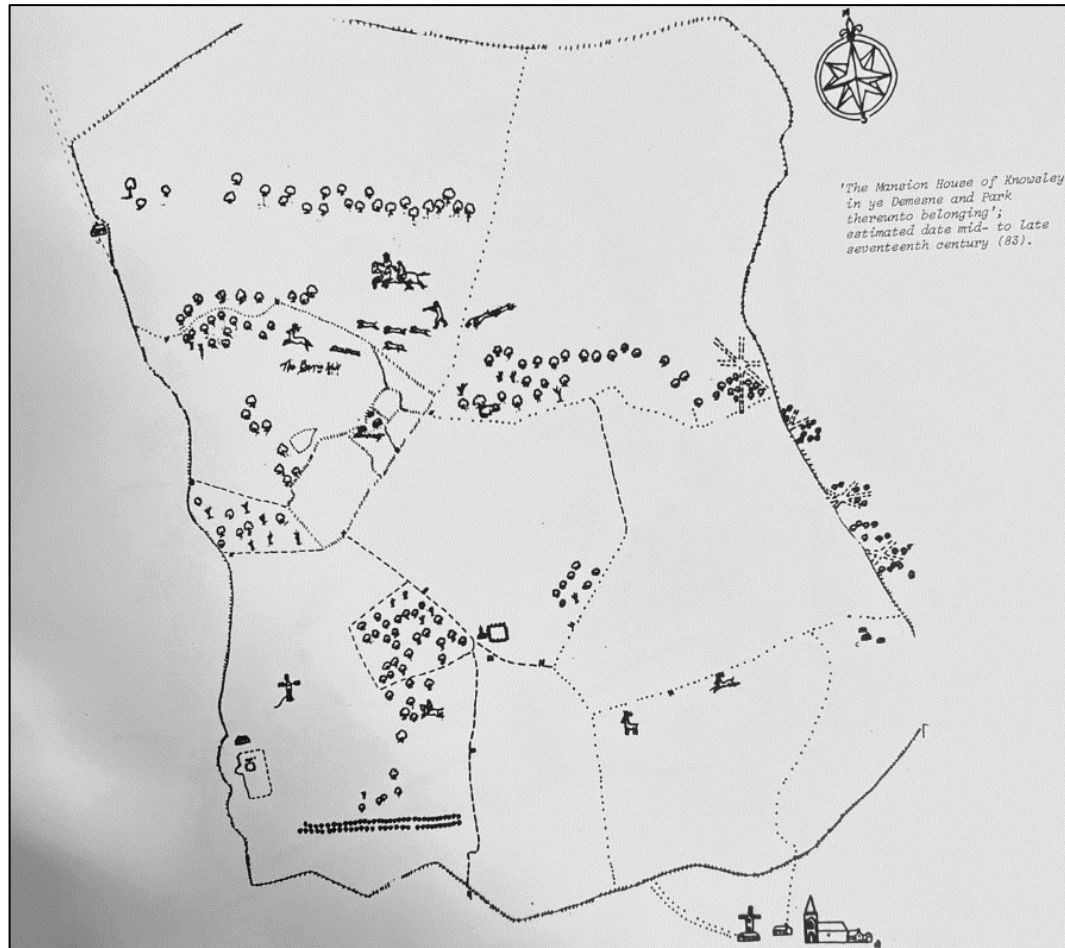


Figure 4: 'The Mansion House of Knowsley in ye Demeane and Park thereunto belonging' from Sholl 1985

- 3.3.11 Whilst the National Heritage List states that the park was created after 1777, there are certainly elements of the earlier park surviving, including, possibly, White Man's Dam as mentioned above. An enclosed area annotated 'Parkers Lodge' is shown on a 1726 plan of Knowsley Park at the northern end of the fence line (MME6587). This is later recorded as Keeper's Lodge (Tithe Map 1847), Park Keeper's Lodge (OS 1850-1938), and, since the 1960s, is now known as Park Farm. The mapped evidence shows major expansion of the buildings in this area in the late 19th century (see below).
- 3.3.12 The late 18th century park design seems to have included the creation of a new lake, Mizzy Dam, by 1785. The road passing to the west of Knowsley Hall was stopped up to allow the extension of the park westwards. Parkside was purchased in 1797 to later extend the park southwards. A building is shown at the location of Parkside on the Derby estate plan of 1783/6 (MME6571).



Figure 5: Knowsley Township Tithe Map 1847

- 3.3.13 The former park pale (MME20772) lay to the east of the Eccleston parish boundary and was partially followed by the 1840s stone park wall (MME12648). Another possible park wall was located further west, running through Trap Wood (MME20812).
- 3.3.14 A menagerie and aviary were established by the 13th Earl, who was also responsible for many of the lodges, stables and farms seen on the 1850 and later Ordnance Survey maps. The construction of paddocks to the south of Shaw's Plantation (Shaw being the keeper responsible for the deer) for sick deer and for stock fattening was discussed in letters between the Earl of Derby and his agent in 1849 but no mapped evidence for paddocks in this location is seen until 1908.
- 3.3.15 On the 1847 Tithe Map, a small rectangular garden is shown to the south of 'Keeper's Lodge' and a stand of trees curls around the northern side of the buildings. An enclosure named 'Beggary Copy' is located to the north-west and further smaller bodies of water are located to the north of this and Chain Acre Wood / Pony Coppice. To the south, the fence line passes amongst scattered trees, crossing an east-west path before entering the area of the racecourse surrounding Mizzy Dam. A further roadway runs NW-SE to the south of Mizzy Dam and the fence line crosses a stream to the south of Mizzy Dam before terminating at southeast corner of the racecourse to the north of a group of buildings, later labelled Parkside (MME6571).



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1893 showing the expanded Park Keeper's Lodge

- 3.3.16 By the late 19th century, Park Keeper's Lodge had undergone considerable expansion with two main buildings shown to the north and south of a yard and ancillary buildings and a further large yard to the east. To the south of the Park Keeper's Lodge, a stand of trees called Garden Wood was bounded by two paths through the parkland which joined to the southeast of the wood. The fence line follows the east side of this road as it continues south with Singleton's Hill to the east and Hag Brow / Hag Delph to the west. Large deer paddocks are shown on Singleton's Hill whilst deer sheds (MME12792) are shown in Hag Delph to the west, and a trough further south.
- 3.3.17 As the fence turns west it passes through an area of 19th century woodland to the north of another road before turning south, crossing both this and a branch off the road into open countryside, past the western end of Mizzy Dam. Turning east at the woodland on Riding Hill the fence passes the south side of Mizzy Plantation, then cuts south through the Riding Hill woodland before emerging to the north of the Parkside woodland and terminating in what was open countryside in 1893.

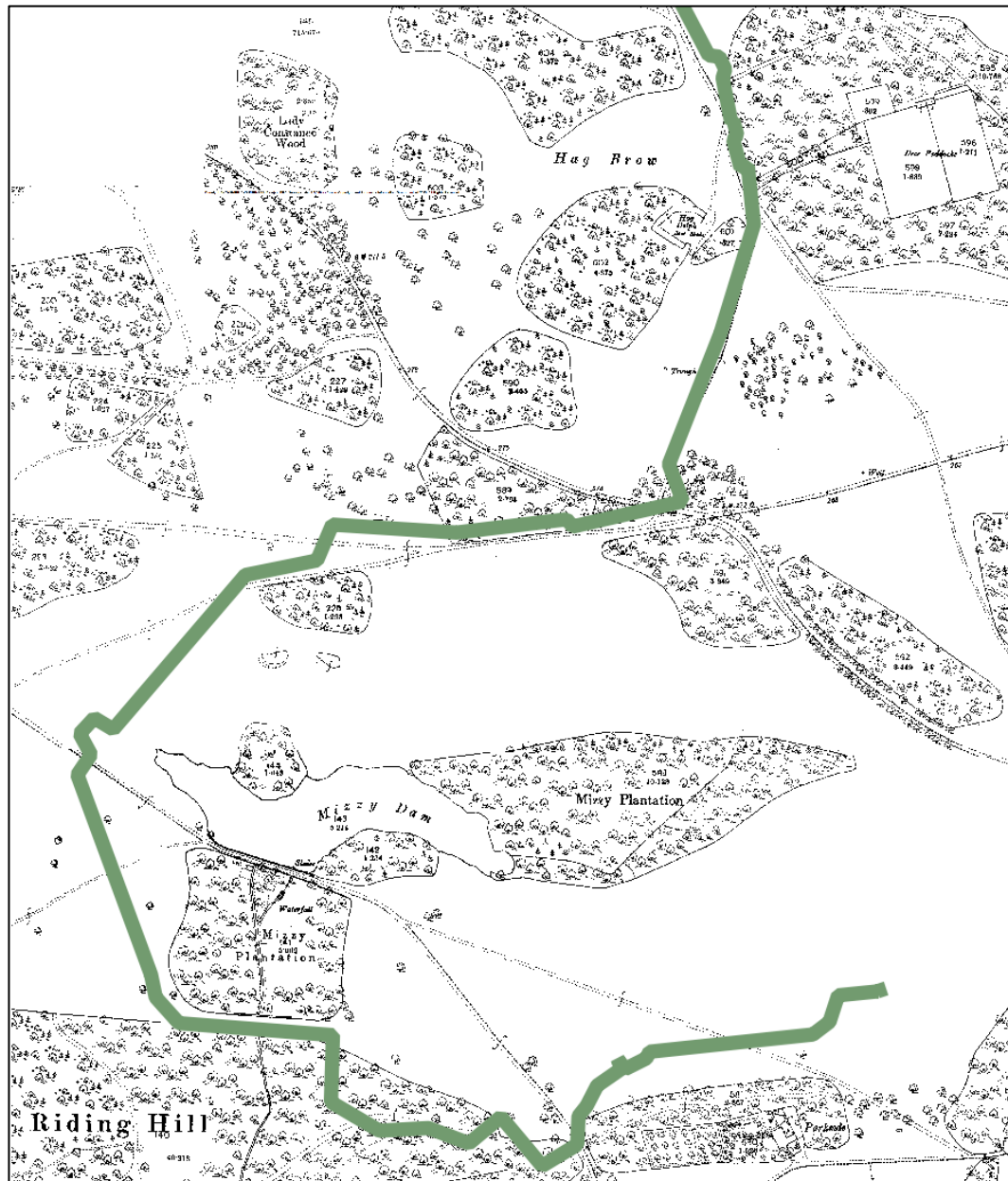


Figure 7: The route of the fence line on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map

- 3.3.18 A satellite landing ground (SLG) was present in the park during the Second World War (MME19555) and the runway continued to be used by the Earl for his private aircraft into the 1960s. SLGs were used to free up space in Maintenance Units. This landing strip, in use from Spring 1942 – December 1944 was provided with Robins hangars which were dismantled in December 1944. Sholl identifies the runway as aligned east-west, with the eastern terminus at the current baboon house. However, the HER and other sources suggest alternative locations. It is also noted that no evidence for a runway can be seen in this position on aerial photographs from 1951 (<https://derbosoft.proboards.com/thread/2077/knowsley-park-airfield-1958-1962ish>, <https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW036000>, <https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/EAW045161>).
- 3.3.19 A Prisoner of War Camp was also present in the south-eastern part of Knowsley during the Second World War (MME19552). No trace of this survives.

- 3.3.20 The Safari Park was opened at Knowsley in 1971, initially as a joint venture between the Earl of Derby and Jimmy Chipperfield, following Chipperfield's similar venture in 1966 at Longleat. When first opened, the route through the park comprised a 3 ½ mile drive through parkland containing lions, cheetahs, monkeys, giraffes, zebras, elephants, and a variety of antelope. A further 1 ½ miles were added in 1973 due to the success of the safari, adding camels, buffalo, white rhino and tigers across 550 acres. Since 1982 the safari has been wholly owned by Lord Derby and has been expanded with a foot safari, amusement rides, a narrow-gauge railway and further new animal species. The route of the new fence bounds the south-western side of the safari as far as Park Farm where it extends along the eastern side of the farm, across the north side to turn south along the western side of Garden Wood.

3.4 Site Visit

- 3.4.1 A site visit was undertaken by Nansi Rosenberg on 12th July 2023. The exterior of the route was walked in mostly dry conditions and considered the impact of the fence on the surrounding landscape and compared its impact to that from the earlier fence where this remained in place. Some areas were not accessible on foot due to the presence of animals.
- 3.4.2 Starting at Park Farm, the fence is not directly attached to historic structures but encloses the farm buildings on three sides. The earlier fence is still in place, considerably lower and less secure.



Plate 1: The new and old fences as they meet the north-eastern side of Park Farm

- 3.4.3 To the west of Park Farm, the fence is positioned behind the earlier fence into the woodland and is hard to make out in the undergrowth and between the two hay barns.



Plate 2: The fence as it passes between the two hay barns makes little mark on the landscape

- 3.4.4 A north-south stretch of fence runs along the roadside from the east side of Park Farm to the Keepers' office, past the zebra house and the former location of the deer sheds in Hag Delph (of which no remains survive).



Plate 3: Looking south along the fence line with Hag Delph (right) and the zebra enclosure (left).



Plate 4: Where the fence passes dense planting it blends into the landscape



Plate 5: In open landscape it is more visible

- 3.4.5 Where the landscape opens out, the fence does present a clear boundary between the parkland and the safari, being green painted steel with a thin mesh and narrow, regularly-spaced supports. Whilst the green paint is dark, the thin mesh is not particularly noticeable.

The supports are taller and generally more evident than standard agricultural fencing. Whilst the fencing is very visible in the open landscape, when there is dense planting beyond, it blends into the background.

- 3.4.6 There are limited built features of heritage interest along the line of the fence, which follows the route of the previous animal containment fence. Brick-built paddocks are visible in the distance from the fence line to the south of Mizzy Dam, at the southern most point of the fence.



Plate 6: Looking south from the southernmost point of the fence, the brick walls of the paddocks are visible in the middle distance

- 3.4.7 As the fence approaches the entrance to the safari, the landscape becomes less open and the buildings, car park and entrance road become the dominant features. That combined with the difference between rougher ground outside the fence to that internally, results in the fence seeming a natural division and not a particularly imposing feature in the landscape, being part of the overall change to a commercial enterprise.



Plate 7: The fence zig-zags as it approaches the safari entrance, cutting through lower, damper ground

4.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 4.1.1 There is extremely limited evidence for archaeological activity in the search area, this being limited to the find of two prehistoric worked flints over 700m to the north. No further archaeological investigation is considered justified in advance of development should planning permission be granted.
- 4.1.2 For the majority of the fence's route, it blends into the landscape and does not stand out as incongruous within the historic landscape. There are few built heritage features with which it shares a view and where it does, it does not present a negative impact on the heritage asset. It is undoubtedly more visible in the landscape across open ground and as such it does form a more visible demarcation between the safari and the remainder of Knowsley Park. However, it is also recognised that an animal containment fence was in place when the park was designated.
- 4.1.3 The style of fencing, whilst more prominent than the standard agricultural form previously in place, is not out of keeping in the wider landscape and is not considered to present a significant impact on the setting of the parkland.

5.0 Bibliography

5.1 Documentary Sources

Farrar, W & Brownbill J (eds) 1907 *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Lancashire*

Sholl, A 1985 *The Historical Development of Knowsley Park. A study of the landscape 1086-1985.*

Unpublished report for the Groundwork Trust

5.2 Cartographic / Archival Sources

Knowsley Tithe Map 1847

Ordnance Survey 1850

Ordnance Survey 1893

Ordnance Survey 1908

Ordnance Survey 1938

Ordnance Survey 1960-61

Ordnance Survey 1978-80

Lancashire Archives DDX77/2/9

5.3 Digital Sources

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

<http://britainfromabove.org.uk>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk>

<http://www.promap.co.uk>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/>

<https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/>

<https://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/>

www.a2a.org.uk

<http://www.lathomparktrust.org.uk/the-civil-war-period/>

Appendix 1: Knowsley Park NHL 1000997

Official list entry

Heritage Category: Park and Garden

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1000997

Date first listed: 01-Feb-1986

This list entry identifies a Park and/or Garden which is registered because of its special historic interest.

[Understanding registered parks and gardens](#)

[\(https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/\)](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/registered-parks-and-gardens/)

[Corrections and minor amendments \(https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/minor-amendments/\)](#)

Location

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District: Knowsley (Metropolitan Authority)

Parish: Knowsley

District: St. Helens (Metropolitan Authority)

Parish: Eccleston

National Grid Reference: SJ 45296 94884

Details

SUMMARY OF HISTORIC INTEREST

A park which originated in the C13 and was landscaped during the late C18 incorporating elements of a late C17 and early C18 landscape. Lancelot Brown drew up proposals for the park and kitchen garden in 1775 and 1776 and it is possible that parts of the park were altered to his designs. During the 1830s William Sawrey Gilpin advised the thirteenth Earl of Derby on various matters relating to the park.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The earliest reference to a park at Knowsley is in 1292 when it was owned by Robert de Lathom. The estate passed to the Stanleys by marriage in 1385. Sir Thomas Stanley was created Earl of Derby in 1485 by Henry VII as a reward for his support in the battle of Bosworth and the estate has remained in the hands of the family since that time.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Knowsley Park is situated immediately to the south and east of the village of Knowsley within the area enclosed by the A580 to the north, the B5203 to the east, the A57 and M57 to the south and the B5202 to the west. The c 950ha park is on undulating land which rises to the south-east. The boundary is formed by a stone wall which was built by during the 1830s and 1840s by the thirteenth Earl of Derby. It runs around the whole of the

perimeter and is screened by belts of trees apart from an area in the south-east corner of the site; here the boundary was altered in 1921 and is now marked by a fence. The northern part of the west boundary, where the wall runs parallel to Ormskirk Road between Dumbrees Lodge and Ormskirk Lodge, appears to follow the line of an avenue shown on an early C18 estate map. The southern boundary was altered and the wall rebuilt in places in connection with the construction of the M57 motorway. The boundary of the park was altered on several occasions before it was walled. The drive connecting Ormskirk Lodge and Huyton Lodge was formerly a public highway. It was stopped up and the land to the west of it taken into the park in 1777. At some point during the C18 the southern boundary was extended south from a line shown on an early C18 estate map, enclosing an area now occupied by paddocks south of Riding Hill. The setting is urban and suburban on the south and west sides and agricultural elsewhere.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

Thirteen entrances with lodges are shown on the 2nd edition OS map published 1909. Running in a clockwise direction starting from a point where Mill Lane joins Park Road at the north-western end of the site, the first is Dumbrees Lodge which was rebuilt in the late C20; Elbow Field Lodge was on the A580 but the gateway is now blocked and the buildings have been demolished; Longborough Lodge, also on the A580, is a mid C19 red sandstone building. On the eastern boundary there is a gated entrance c 900m south of the A580. Blue Door Lodge is a red-brick late C19 building off the B5203, and Trap Wood Lodge, also off the B5203, is similar in style to Longborough Lodge. On the southern boundary St Helens Lodge was in an area now outside the park and has been demolished. Prescott Lodge was built in the late C20 to replace a lodge cut off from the park by the A57. Paddock Lodge is a red-brick C19 building and Huyton Lodge is a mid C19 red sandstone building. Liverpool Lodge, situated at the south-west corner of the site, was one of the principal entrances and was considered the most ambitious architecturally (Pevsner 1969). It was demolished when the M57 motorway was built. On the western boundary, off Knowsley Road, Croxteth Lodge is a red sandstone mid C19 building, and Home Farm Lodge is a single-storey brick building probably of C19 date. Ormskirk Lodge is now one of the principal entrances and it is situated at the end of Ormskirk Road, which continues south as a drive through the park and connects with approaches to the Hall. Huyton Lodge, Croxteth Lodge and Liverpool Lodge are thought to have been designed by William Burn (Scholl 1985).

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Knowsley Hall (listed grade II*) is an L-shaped building situated in the south-west part of the site. There is a reference to a building at Knowsley from the period 1377-99 but the earliest fabric identified is thought to date from the C15 (Pevsner 1969). Successive alterations and additions were made during the C18, C19 and C20. It is not known who was responsible for the C18 work, but John Foster made alterations in 1820, William Burn followed in the 1840s and Romaine Walker was active in 1910. Some 300m north of the Hall are stables of c 1847, probably by William Burn (Scholl 1985). In 1963 Claude Phillimore designed a new house for the eighteenth Earl and this is situated c 600m north-west of the Hall. The Hall is used for a mixture of domestic and commercial uses (1998).

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS On the west side of the house there is a forecourt in the angle of the L shape formed by the Hall. It has a steep bank on the north side and the west side has entrance gates and railings. This was created in the C20 and was designed to resemble what is shown in a painting of c 1728 by Mollineux. The south side of the Hall has terraced lawns overlooking a stretch of water called Home Pond. On the east side of the house is a late C19 or early C20 terraced garden. There is a change of level between the southern and northern parts of this area; on the south side the lower garden has lawns and an arcaded retaining wall of red brick with stone dressings divides it from

the upper garden which is reached from balustraded stone stairs. The upper garden is walled and has lawns. The gardens overlook a stretch of water called Octagon Pond with views of a mid C18 classical building called The Octagon (attributed to William Kent, Scholl 1985) c 80m beyond the water.

Home Pond is situated c 60m to the south of the Hall and Octagon Pond c 150m to the east. Both stretches of water are suggested on an early C18 estate map and they are also shown on an estate map of 1785 where they have formal rectangular outlines in contrast to the present irregular, rounded edges. Paintings of late C17 or early C18 date suggest that these may have been elements within a series of water features including a rectangular pool between Home Pond and the east front of the Hall.

A path leads from the Hall along the west side of Octagon Pond and on north-east through woodland to a sunken garden c 200m north of Octagon Pond. This is shown as a stretch of water on the 1st edition OS map published 1850 and earlier maps. The garden was created in the mid C20, to take advantage of the fall of water from a dam on the north side. Between this garden and the Octagon Pool is a castellated building called Bridge Lodge which was probably designed by William Burn c 1840 (Colvin 1995).

Some 200m north of the Hall is an enclosed area called the American Garden. The east side has a brick wall which connects with the wall of the kitchen garden to the north. In the centre there is a pond, shown on the 1847 Tithe map, which has a rustic bridge crossing it near its south end much as shown in a photograph of 1911 (Holme 1911). The north end of the garden is formed by a stone aviary shown on the 1850 OS map.

PARK The park, which was created after 1777, lies to the west of the Hall and consists of open land with scattered clumps of trees. A double lime avenue, which was planted in the early C20, is aligned with the west front of the Hall and runs to the park boundary. A drive running north from the Hall is called Dark Entry and it leads through woodland to an area c 600m north of the Hall which was used by the thirteenth Earl of Derby to house an extensive collection of exotic animals and birds during the 1830s and 1840s. Some 400m north-west of the Hall the drive leading from Croxteth Lodge divides, with branches leading east to the stables and south to the Hall, respectively. At this point there is a decorative Gothic Revival-style cottage of the mid C19 called Orchard Lodge.

A large elongated lake called White Man's Dam stretches from a point c 500m north-east of the Hall to a point c 1.6km to the north-east. At its south-west corner there is a castellated building dated 1900 and c 400m north of this on the shore is a boathouse of 1837 designed by William Burn. Open grassland around the lake is planted with scattered trees and clumps. At the northern head of the lake is an area of woodland called the Nightcap which is the reduced remains of a tree belt shown on the 1850 OS map. Lancelot Brown (1716-83) was commissioned to carry out work at Knowsley in 1775, for which he received £100, and in 1776 for which £84 was paid. Brown mentions 'a new kitchen garden' and 'alterations of the Grounds round the House' in his account books. It has been suggested that he proposed the formation of White Man's Dam and the planting of tree belts and clumps in the park (Town and Country Planning 1979). C18 estate maps show that the lake was extant by 1785 and a date of c 1720 has been suggested for its inception (Pevsner 1969).

Stand Hill, which is the highest point within the park, rises to the east of the lake and views are obtained in every direction over the lake and park and to the countryside beyond. Some 40m south of the summit is a square tower, possibly of early C19 date, called The Stand. C17 and later estate maps show a building in approximately the same position. Some 900m south of Stand Hill is another eminence called Riding Hill, and c 700m south-east there is a lake called Mizzy Dam. This area is

shown in a horse-racing scene painted by Peter Tillemans c 1730 (private collection) and an estate map of 1785 shows the position of a rectangular racetrack which followed a course around Mizzy Dam between Stand Hill and Riding Hill. The latter was the site of a summerhouse which is shown on two paintings by of c 1730 by Tillemans (private collection) with long views north across the park. South of Riding Hill, between Paddock Lodge and Prescott Lodge, is a set of early C19 stud paddocks consisting of ten walled paddocks served by five stables.

Immediately to the west of these is a set of fenced paddocks and to the south the tree belt between Huyton Lodge and the site of Liverpool Lodge which was the subject of proposals by W S Gilpin (1762-1843) in the 1830s, though it is not clear exactly what was executed. In the area north of the paddocks, between Riding Hill and a drive leading north from Huyton Lodge, there are scattered trees and clumps which appear to conform with the position of an avenue shown on the early C18 map.

The south-eastern part of the park has been turned into a safari park which opened in 1971. An area running from Prescott Lodge northwards around Mizzy Dam up to the margins of Chain Acre Wood is enclosed by a high fence and is used for the display of exotic animals and birds. It is served by a number of late C20 buildings c 150m south-east of Mizzy Dam.

The northern half of the park consists mainly of farmland and plantations which conform broadly with what is shown on C18 estate maps. Some 600m north-east of White Man's Dam is Chain Acre Wood. This appears to correspond with an area of woodland shown on estate maps of the late C17 and the early C18 with walks through it radiating from a central point. Some 600m north-west of White Man's Dam is area of woodland called Berry Hill which is shown, with the same name, on a late C17 estate map. The north-west corner of the park is mainly used for grazing and arable farming.

KITCHEN GARDEN A brick-walled kitchen garden is situated c 220m north of the Hall. It is shown on the 1850 OS map, but it is not known whether it corresponds with a kitchen garden referred to by Brown in 1776. The garden is divided into two halves by a brick wall and entrances are generally tall arched openings with boarded doors. It is shown subdivided into compartments on the 1850 OS map while the 2nd edition OS map revised 1906-7 shows numerous glasshouses, all of which have disappeared or been replaced.

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Description written: March 1998 Amended: June 1998 Register Inspector: CEH Edited: March 1999

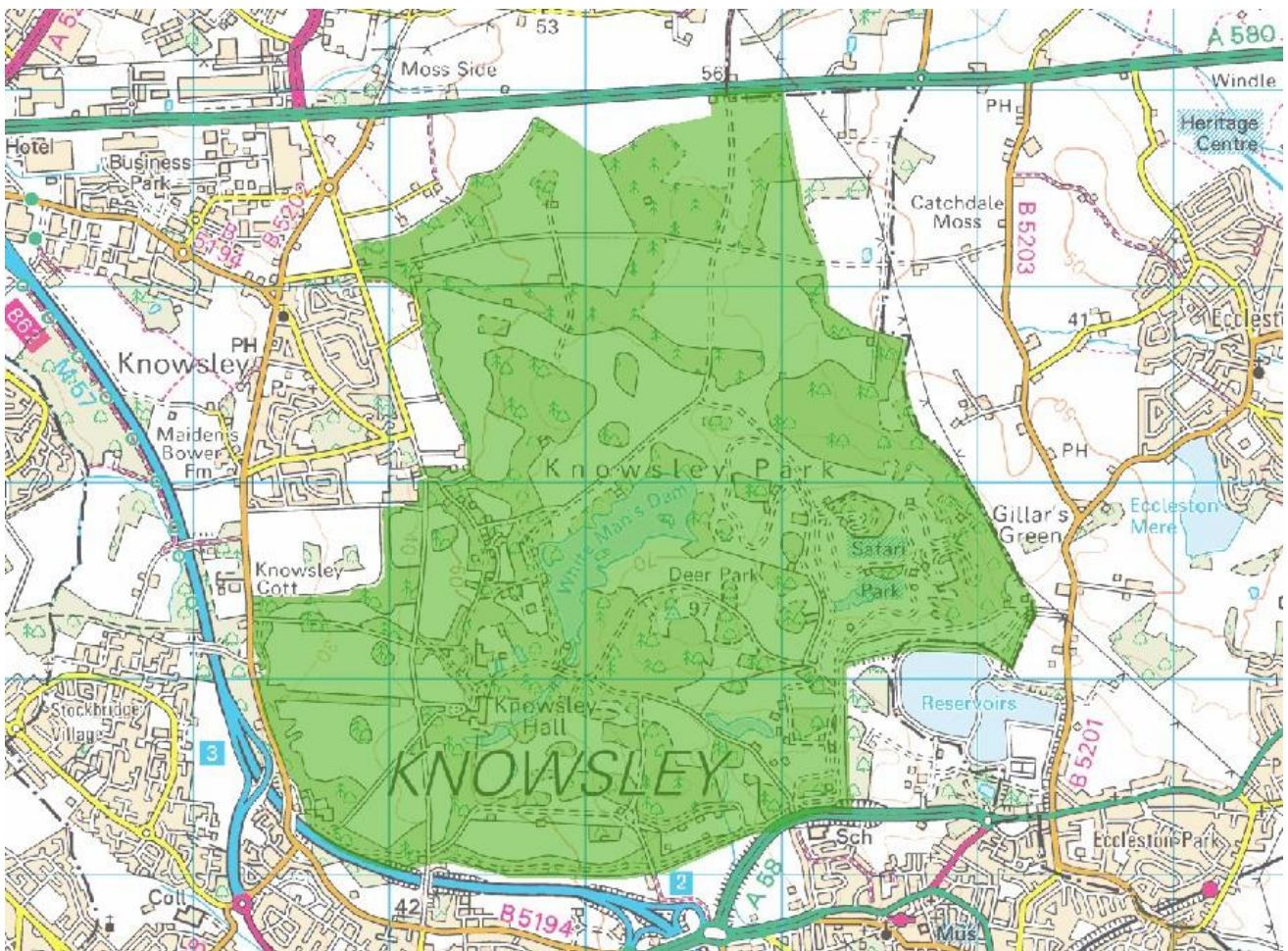
Legacy

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system. Legacy System number: 1995

Legacy System: Parks and Gardens

Legal

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest.



Map

This map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. This copy shows the entry on 20-Jul-2023 at 10:56:55.

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End of official list entry

Appendix 2: Legislation and Planning Policy Context

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (AMAAA)

The Act is the primary legislation protecting archaeological remains within the United Kingdom. It identifies as a duty of the Secretary of State the need to compile and maintain a schedule of ancient monuments of national importance, to allow for their preservation, so far as possible, in their current (at the time of scheduling) state.

A statement setting out current Government policy on the identification, protection, conservation and investigation of nationally important (both scheduled and nationally important non-scheduled) ancient monuments was published in October 2013 (DCMS 2013).

Where works to scheduled monuments are proposed for development-related purposes, the Secretary of State has particular regard to the following principles:

Only in wholly exceptional cases will consent be granted for works could result in substantial harm to, or loss of, the significance of a Scheduled Monument; and

In cases that would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a Scheduled Monument the harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (DCMS 2013, para 20).

This legislative position is directly reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states that “Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss...” (NPPF, para 195), and “Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use” (NPPF, para 196).

Where consent is granted for works that could result in harm to, or loss of, the significance of a Scheduled Monument, conditions are expected to be imposed that provide for recording of information that adds to our understanding of the significance of that monument. Those conditions are likely to be designed to ensure that:

- the project design seeks to further the objectives of relevant international or national research frameworks;
- use is made of appropriately skilled teams with the resources to fully implement the project design to relevant professional standards (such as those published by the Institute for Archaeologists);
- the project design provides for the full analysis, publication and dissemination of the results, including the deposition of reports in the relevant Historic Environment Record (HER), to a set timetable; and
- provision is made in the project design for the conservation and deposition of the site archive with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it (DCMS 2013, para 21).

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) highlights the importance of built heritage and Listed Buildings within the planning system. With regard to the Local Planning Authority’s (LPA) duty regarding listed buildings in the planning process, it states that:

“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which

it possesses”.

In addition, Section 72 of the Act emphasises the value of Conservation Areas in built heritage planning. In relation to the duties and powers of the LPA, it provides that:

“With respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area”.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021

This replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs) and Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and revises the NPPF 2019.

Section 16 provides policy on ‘Conserving and enhancing the historic environment’. Planning decisions have to be made from a position of knowledge and understanding with respect to the historic environment. Paragraph 194 states:

“In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impacts of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation”.

In paragraph 190, it is made clear that a balance must be sought, on the one hand sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and the positive contribution that they can make to communities, and on the other in considering the positive contribution that a new development could make to local character and distinctiveness.

The impact on a heritage asset should be assessed in terms of the significance of that asset; the greater the significance, the greater weight should be given in that assessment. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated asset should require clear and convincing justification. Where substantial harm or loss is predicted, approval should be given only in exceptional circumstances for Grade II listed buildings, parks or gardens. For heritage assets of higher importance (Grade II* & I listed buildings and parks & gardens, scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields and World Heritage Sites) approval for proposed developments that cause substantial harm should be ‘wholly exceptional’ (para 200). In all cases the harm must be weighed against the public benefit (para 201/202).

As a footnote to para 200 the NPPF states that:

“Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.”

As is reflected in the DCMS 2013 statement on Government policy, it is made clear that undesignated heritage assets of national importance should be afforded the same consideration as designated assets of equivalent significance:

“The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset” (para 203);”

In addition, para 192 states that:

“Local planning authorities should maintain or have access to a historic environment record. This should contain

up-to-date evidence about the historic environment in their area and be used to:

- a) assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment; and
- b) predict the likelihood that currently unidentified heritage assets, particularly sites of historic and archaeological interest, will be discovered in the future.

Among the core planning principles, provision is made to “conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations” (CLG 2012, para 17).

National Planning Practice Guidance (2014, updated 2019)

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2014, updated in 2019 and provides guidance for planners and communities which will help deliver high quality development and sustainable growth in England. In terms of heritage, guidance entitled ‘Conserving and enhancing the historic environment’ sets out information with respect to the following:

- the recognition of the appropriate conservation of heritage assets forming one of the ‘Core Planning Principles’ that underpin the planning system;
- what the main legislative framework for planning and the historic environment is (Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990; Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and Protection of Wrecks Act 1973);
- a definition of ‘significance’;
- why significance is important in decision-taking;
- the considerations of designated and non-designated assets;
- the identification of non-designated heritage assets; and
- the considerations for when applications for planning permission are required to consult or notify English Heritage.

Non-Statutory Guidance

English Heritage Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance (EH 2008) defines the setting of historic assets as:-

“...the surroundings in which a place is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape...”

EH draws a distinction between ‘setting’ and ‘context’ (paragraphs 76 and 77) and the document makes it clear that whereas ‘setting’ involves a localised area, ‘context’ is a wider concept involving “any relationship between a place and other places, relevant to the values of that place”.

- Heritage values are considered under four main headings
- Evidential Value derives from the potential for a place to yield evidence about past human activity
- Historical Value derives from the ways in which past, people and events can be connected through a place to the present
- Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a

place.

- Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it.

Local Policy Guidance

The Knowsley Council Plan 2022-2025 refers to the successful launch of the Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture programme and that this has celebrated the cultural heritage of Knowsley.

The Knowsley Strategy 2030 is in draft form. It recognises the pride that local residents have for their heritage.