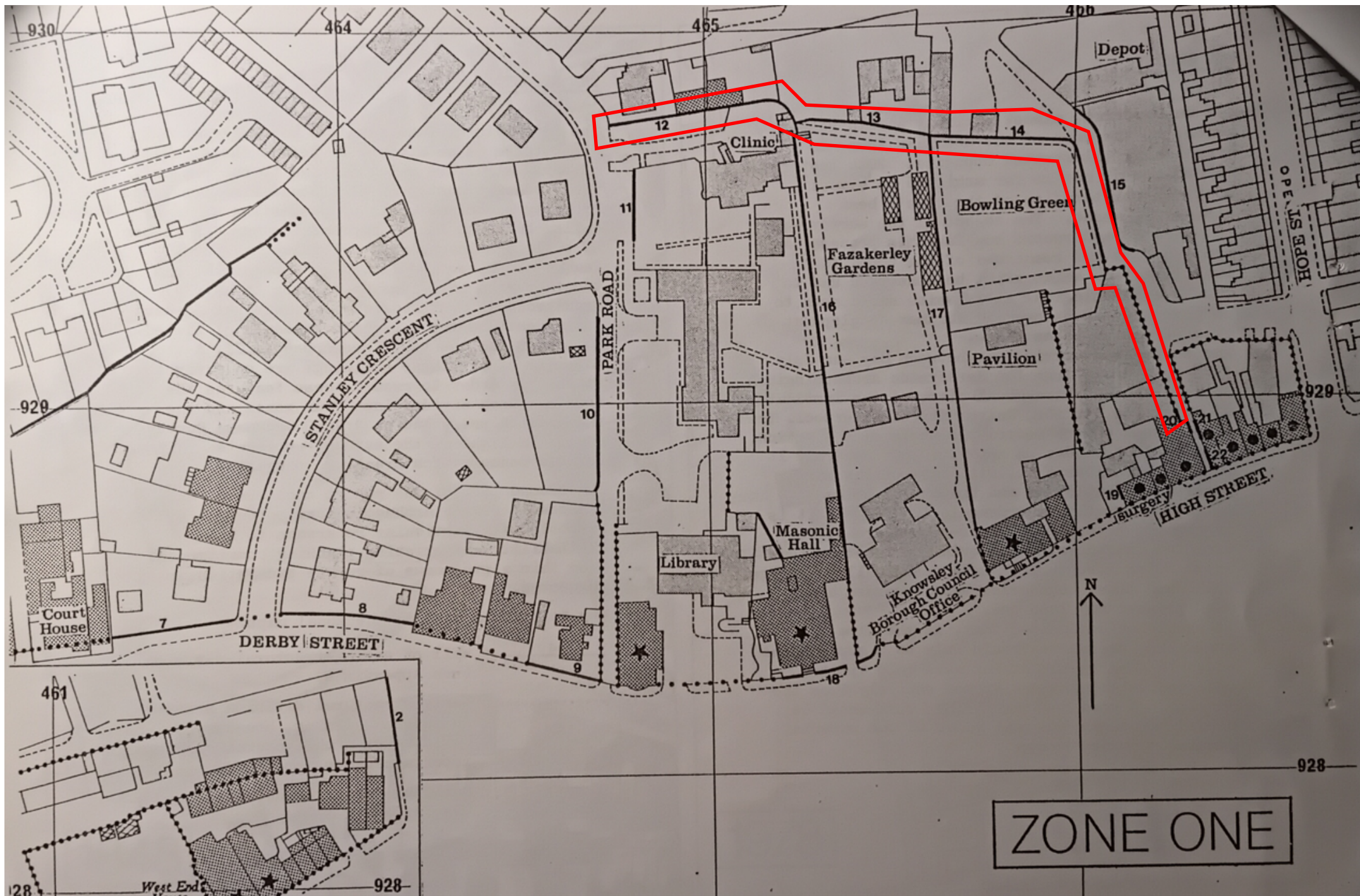


Extracts from
Report 1: Prescott Action Area. An Archaeological View
P.J. Davey
The University of Liverpool
Merseyside Archaeological Society
ISBN 0 906479 01 0
1978



ZONE ONE

THEN

By the 16th century all of this area had been enclosed and settlement developed along Fall Lane (High St. and Derby St.) particularly at the eastern end. The north limit of the township followed a stream which divided the town from the Moss, and which drained westwards to Prescott Brook. The long narrow plots probably preserve the line of former medieval strips which divided the common field. By 1592 the western part of Sletherforth Field, the Acre and Sir John's Croft were still given over to agriculture; the remainder of the area was occupied by houses and their crofts.

NOW

This area of the town has retained its medieval form almost intact. The High Street and Derby Street preserve the line of Fall Lane and a fine sandstone wall still defines much of the northern boundary. Between Stanley Crescent and Egerton Road a double fence line with a good mixed hedge still marks the old boundary between Prescott and Knowsley.

SPECIAL FEATURES

1. Northern Boundary Wall (12-14)

Apart from the Church, this boundary wall is probably the most significant survival from the early history of the town. Direct dating evidence is lacking, and there are no medieval murage grants extant, but on morphological ground alone the wall must date from at least as early as the 17th century, and is probably much earlier.

2. Plot Boundaries (16, 17)

The boundary between the grounds of the Knowsley Borough Council Offices and Fazakerly House (Home for the Aged) consists of a very fine early brick wall, probably dating to the second half of the 17th century. There is also a good 19th century wall between the Council Offices and the Conservative Club. Both features perpetuate the late medieval land divisions.

3. Buildings

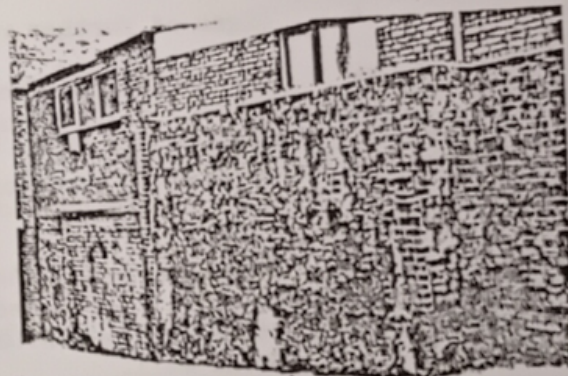
Evidence of earlier structures survive in a number of buildings on High Street (21-31). The most important group lies either side of a cobbled alley known in the 19th century as Poor House Weint. Here, in the sides of the alley, the remains of a number of sandstone buildings can still be seen from the outside. As these occupy much earlier sites, and are now largely derelict, their recording and interpretation pose a major archaeological problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS (See appendices A & B)

1. The most important lengths of boundary wall should be listed or scheduled. Walls which occupy early lines or which are integral to the visual character of the town should also be listed.
2. Buildings which retain early structural features should also be listed and subjected to detailed structural surveys.
3. The present Conservation Area should be extended to include the whole of the early township described here.



Wall 89 Sandstone quoins.



Wall 89



Wall 46



Wall 48



Wall 44

Wall 77



Wall 14 n-e corner.



Wall 14

APPENDIX A

List of stone walls and early boundaries.

Key:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Recommended action</u>
A	Earliest walls.	Listing and scheduling.
B	Early walls on early structural lines.	Listing.
C	Building survivals. (See Appendix B)	Detailed survey and possible listing.
D	Later wall (i.e. mainly 19th Cent.) on early line.	Listing.
E	Architecturally and visually important.	Listing.
F	Other stone walls.	None.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Approx. length (m)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cat.</u>
1	Liverpool Rd., north side, east to West End House.	271	Red dressed sandstone, 4-8 courses, semi-circular coping.	E
2	Knowsley Park Lane, west side, southern end.	20	Sandstone, fully-coursed, 6 blocks. 1m high, semi-circular coping.	E
3	Knowsley Park Lane, west side, in front of tanks.	15	Description - as wall 2.	F
4	Knowsley Park Lane, east side, from nos.	96	Sandstone, 4-6 full courses, regular ashlar blocks, semi-circular coping.	F
5	Park Road, north side, in front of Thorne Cottage.	27	Stone wall, 1.5m high, not coursed, rounded sandstone coping.	E
6	Derby Street Police Station, rear walls.	60	Good brick wall. English Garden Bond -2. (Part = Township and property boundary.)	F
7	Derby Street. From no.8 to Stanley Crescent.	31	Sandstone, 8 courses, ashlar blocks, c. 1.6m high.	E
8	Derby Street. From no.6 to Stanley Crescent.	31	Sandstone, 6 full courses, semi-circular coping.	E
9	Derby Street. Front garden wall of 1 Park Road.	19	As wall 8, but traces of earlier wall in pale sandstone underneath.	E
10	Park Road, west side. Borders 14 Stanley Crescent.	18	Good mixed hedge. Brick wall, 28 courses, English Garden Bond- 3/4, hand-made brick, flat stone coping.	E/F
11	Park Road, in front of Clinic.	51	Brick, 32-42 courses, flat sandstone coping.	A
12	Park Road, north side of Clinic.			

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Approx. length (m)</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cat.</u>
13	Eaton Street, behind 33-35.	37	Pale yellow sandstone, topped with brick.	A
14 *	Eaton Street and Poor House Weint, north & east of bowling green.	66	North side; as wall 13. East side of random yellow sandstone 3.5m high. West side of brick: English Garden Bond-4	A
15	Poor House Weint, east side.	39	Red sandstone, very random mixed.	F
16	Between Fazakerley Gardens and Fazakerley House.	116	Brick wall, 3.5m high. English Garden Bond 4/5	B
17	Between Fazakerley Gardens, Conservative Club & bowling green.	102	Brick wall. Late 19th Century.	D
18	High Street, in front of Masonic Hall.	18	Sandstone. In 3 parts, very long blocks, 3 courses, total c.1m high.	E
19	High Street, no.21.	3	Early wall (see the gable), early bricks.	C
20 *	Poor House Weint, west side.	6	Yellow sandstone 'bricks' & quoin c.17th Cent.	C
21 *	Poor House Weint, east side.	2	As wall 20.	C
22	Continuation of wall 21, towards High Street.	5	As wall 20.	C
23	Hope Street, east side, behind nos.2-12.	24	Squared, uncoursed sandstone, c.1m high, brick on top.	F
24	High Street, east side of nos.43-45. Old Grammar School.	20	Good coursed sandstone wall, c.6 courses high up to 1.5m, corner at north end.	F
25	Moss Street, east side of nos. 34-36.	7		D
26	Opposite s-w corner of Timber Yard in lane off Moss Street.	3	Small portion of wall.	D
27	Continuing east from wall 26 after a break.	39	Light-coloured stone wall, partly coursed, capped with flat sandstone brickwork.	D
28	St. Helens Road, between nos. 14 and 16. (east side)	2	Corner of sandstone building.	E
29	St. Helens Road, behind nos. 6-14. (east side)	23	Sandstone wall, 1.5m high, squared and narrow pale blocks.	F
30	Grosvenor Road, in front of Corporation Central Depot.	7	Sandstone gabled building, good quoins, squared blocks, good coursing.	F
31	Grosvenor Road, opposite rear of No.1 Salisbury Street.	7	As wall 30.	E
32	St. Helens Road, north of no.64.	8	Sandstone wall, 1.2m high, partly coursed, rounded coping.	E
33	New Cross Street, east side, rear of nos. 1-15.	38	Sandstone, flat stone top, 0.45m wide, height: between 0.6m (where vandalised) and 1.8m, partly coursed.	F
34	Rowson Street, east side of scrap-metal yard.	15	Portion of uncoursed sandstone wall.	F
35	Cross Street, behind nos.17-21.	12	Bank and ditch.	A

N.B. * denoted photograph.