

TARBOCK Cont.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 4689/1 | * 18C farm, some modernisation, 18C brick barn. |
| 4786/1 | * 18C farmhouse, a little modernisation, 18 +19C brick outbuildings. |
| 4786/2 | * 19C rebuild of earlier house, no alterations, late 18C brick stables. |
| 4787/2 | 18C cottage, extensively modernised. |
| 4788/1 | 18C cottage, modernised to certain extent. |
| 4788/2 | Modern house on 18C site. |

* More important buildings that largely retained their character.

Conservation Areas

Designated:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Tarbock Village, | fairly dispersed kind of post medieval settlement which has undergone a certain amount of late 18 /19C addition. |
| Tarbock Green, | likely to be mainly early post medieval creation on edge of common land, with medieval farms set back at north and south ends. |

Suggested: Extend the northern edge of the conservation area of Tarbock Green to include Marklands, which is most probably a settlement originating in the medieval period.

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areas occurred quite late in the medieval period, probably during the 13th century (Roberts 1977, 171). The alternative interpretation is that the late medieval land use of the whole township was not affected by its status as Royal Forest and the enclosed pattern in the western half represents the continuation of a more ancient pattern of land use. The excavations at Court Farm (see page 124 above), show that in this part of Halewood there was probable settlement pre-dating the Norman Conquest, which if repeated more widely in this area could have influenced the layout of the medieval landscape by the time of Domesday. There could, of course, have been a combination of settlement types, with the area's status as forest fossilising an earlier pattern for a century or so until opened up for later medieval woodland colonisation, which was very similar in nature to the earlier pattern.

There is evidence that Tarbock, although never in the legal forest, also did not operate an open field system, but had a dispersed settlement pattern associated with enclosed fields and demesne wood and park (i.e. belonging to the lord of the manor). The bounds of one such enclosure recorded in 1180, 'Old Tarbock', are given in a charter (Farrer 1900, 607-8). A concentration of medieval pottery was found by field walking to the west of Brunt Boggart farm, next to the road, in the mid-1980s (figs. 3.18, 3.20). Excavations in 1993 on this site produced evidence of an insubstantial structure associated with medieval pottery, within a plot defined by ditches at right angles to the road, which suggests a small isolated settlement lay here in the 12th-13th century adjacent to a very distinctive oval enclosure. It is suggested that this kind of land use pattern, consisting of a series of large enclosures, may sometimes reflect the medieval continuation of much earlier estates and settlement patterns (Philpott 2000a).

The relationship of a number of present-day farms in Tarbock to documented medieval farms, and pottery concentrations from field walking, suggests that they may lie on the sites of medieval farms which themselves may have much earlier origins. The best example is Yew Tree Farm, which lies within a distinctive oval boundary, which appears to be the earliest feature that all the other field boundaries in the area respect (fig 3.20). Fieldwalking around this farm produced a small concentration of medieval pottery and a dispersed scatter over some of the adjoining fields (fig. 3.18).

There are also a number of areas or enclosed fields in Tarbock, known from medieval documents, which

could have been associated with land held in severalty and therefore were the locations for other isolated medieval farms in the township, although these have yet to be accurately located. One, first recorded in 1292 as *Whitefield*, consisted of 19 acres (Farrer and Brownbill 1907, 181 n.10) and can be located from later field names in the extreme north-west of the township (fig. 3.20). Another, '*Huytonshaw*', consisting of 20 acres in 1307 and in dispute as to whether it was in Tarbock or Huyton, is recorded as being surrounded by '*the old ditch*' in the area of Whiston Brook (Farrer and Brownbill 1907, 178 n.1). Others are less easy to locate such as the '*Longriding*', which consisted of 32 acres in 1460 (Lancs RO DDM 48/24). Not all the small estates mentioned above in Halewood and Tarbock represent a long tradition of landholding going back into the pre-Norman conquest period, as some will also belong to a process of medieval assarting.

Individual assarts were generally quite small, often of only an acre or so (Moorhouse 1981, 664). It has been suggested that the small cottages and enclosures strung out along lanes, clustered at cross-roads and around the edges of common land, particularly in forest and woodland townships, have their origins in this late medieval period (Roberts 1977, 171).

In Tarbock, field walking produced a small concentration of medieval pottery next to the Netherley Road (fig. 3.18), which may be an example of later assarting associated with relatively low status settlement of cottage type. In the western half of Halewood, in addition to the larger sites set within the potential medieval enclosures and assarts, it seems possible that part of the quite widespread 18th-century pattern of small, long roadside enclosures and cottages may have its roots in the late medieval period (but see also below). More documentary and field work is needed to try to isolate further examples of these kind of settlements before their true scale may become apparent.

The above townships show potential assarts and isolated settlement in areas that never developed an open field system, but there are also examples of townships that have produced evidence of assarts at the edges of the common field systems. In Huyton in 1250, they are referred to as '*riddings*' or clearings, eg. '*in length from the ridding which Christiana...formerly held of Adam to Stainulf's ridding also held of Adam, and in width from Robert's other boundary to the hurst...*' (Farrer and Brownbill 1907, 169 n.65). These assarts cannot be

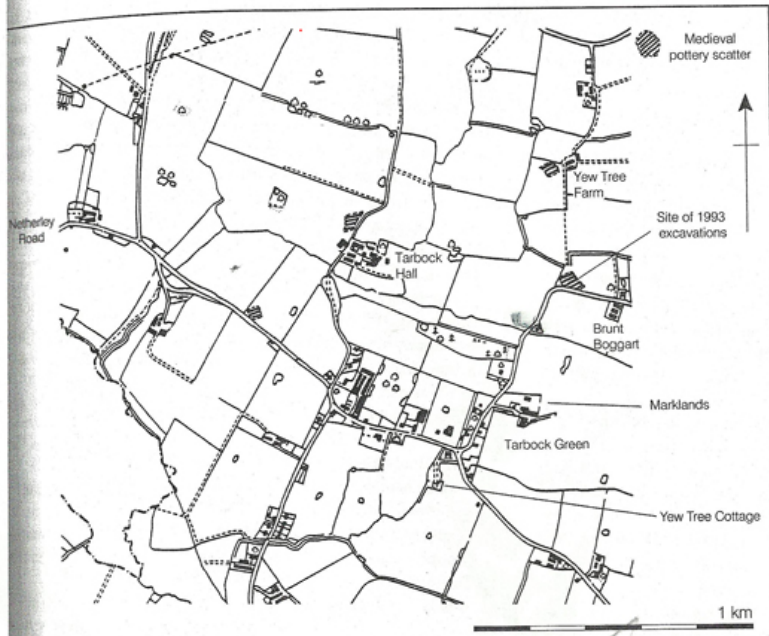


Fig. 3.18 Medieval settlement in Tarbock

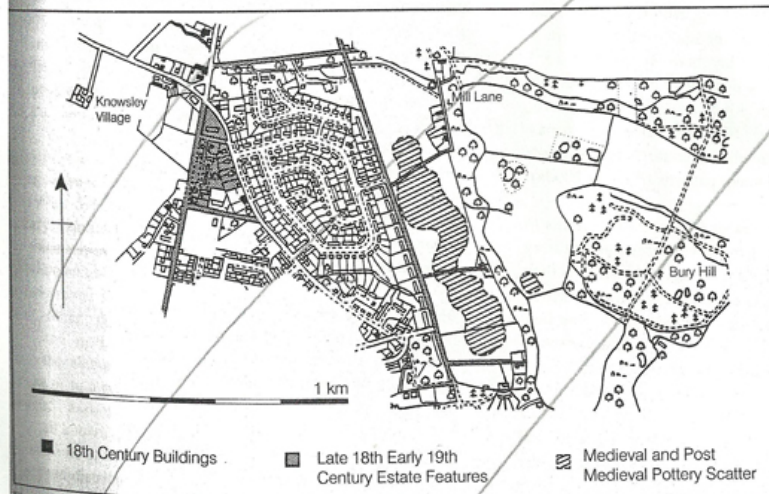


Fig. 3.19 Medieval and Post-medieval settlement in Knowsley township

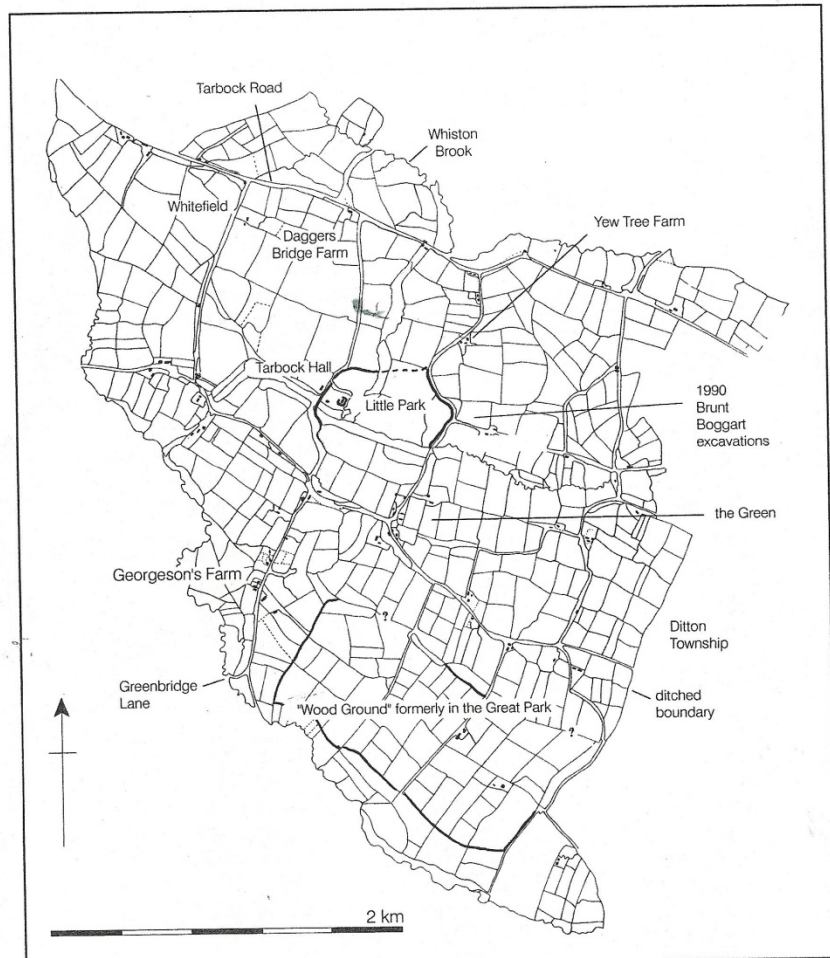
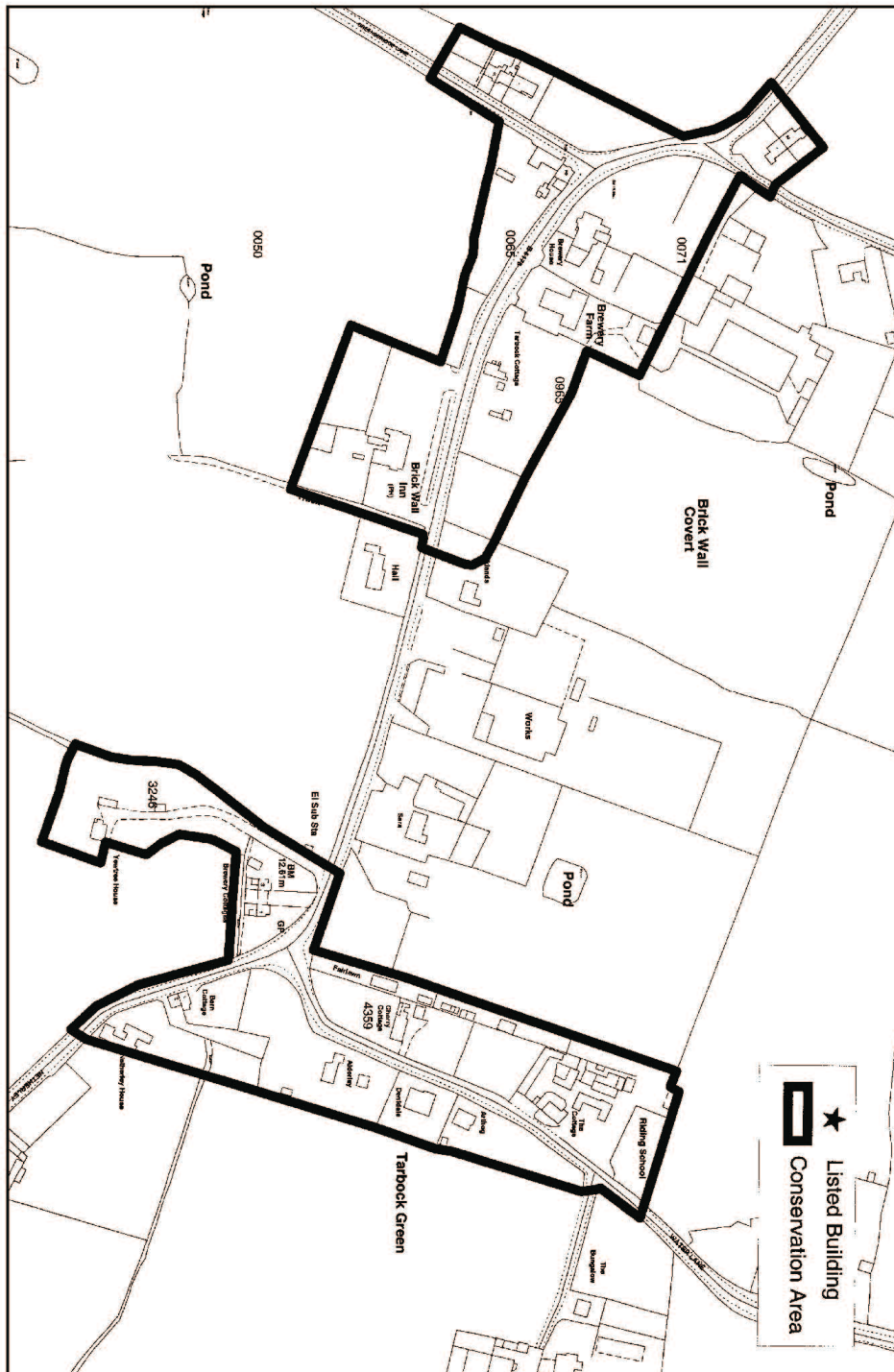


Fig. 3.20 Tarbock township, 1769

17.2 Appendix D – Map of Tarbock Conservation Area



17.3 Appendix E – Outline of Tarbock History

Tarbock is a village and civil parish within the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley, in Merseyside, England. It is situated to the south east of Huyton and to the east of Netherley. The village itself is 6 miles (9.7 km) from Liverpool city centre, 3.5 miles (5.6 km) from Widnes and 2 miles (3.2 km) from Prescot. The M62 motorway junction 6 is in the area and is more familiarly called Tarbock Island. At the 2001 Census, the population of Tarbock was 2,382 (1,146 males, 1,236 females).[1]

The spelling of Tarbock, named after a local brook, has changed more than any other in the West Derby Hundred. The variations have included Tarboc (1086), Turboc (1245), Terbock (1327), Tarbacke (1637) before it settled on its current form in the late seventeenth century. The Domesday Survey noted that the manor of Tarboc was one of those previously held by the Saxon Thane Dot. The parish along with that of 'Hitune' (Huyton) was granted to Henry II in 1150 before it was given to the Lathom family. Towards the end of the twelfth century the two were split between different branches of the family with Tarbock being assigned to Henry de Lathom. His son Richard was the first to adopt the name 'de Torbock'.

Tarbock Hall features in Saxton's map of Lancashire in 1577, although parts of the hall are believed to be fifteenth century in origin. It was surrounded by a 'moat' which was still very prominent on the Tithe map drawn-up in 1847, although three-sides were reported to have been filled-in by the turn of this century. Ownership of the manor remained in the Lathom family, often through the female line, until 1611 when it was sold to Thomas Sutton, a London gentleman and founder of Charterhouse School. Unfortunately Sutton died a few months later and it was his nephew who sold the estate to Sir Richard Molyneux, the Earl of Sefton three years later for £10,500.

The oldest part of the area around Tarbock Green, often called Blue Duck corner after a former Inn. In the fourteenth century Tarbock Hall had its own private chapel but the villagers would have attended St. Michael's Church at Huyton. It is thought that a chapel was built at Tarbock Green in the mid sixteenth century. The building was pulled down in the late 1830s, despite being 'rich in carved woodwork', possibly due to the completion of a building of a Chapel of Ease at Halewood in 1839. This area which is now an important conservation area contains a number of old cottages, including one, believed to be the oldest in the village, which bears a datestone of 1776.

In the sixteenth century the manor is described as having two watermills, a windmill and a fulling mill. When the Earl of Sefton conducted a survey of his Estates in 1769 there was both a watermill and a windmill still in use. Even in the early twentieth century the township remained predominantly rural until the opening of a new colmine at Halsnead Park. Located between the townships of Cronton, Tarbock and Whiston it was called the Cronton Colliery although some of the buildings were sited just within Tarbock. This had a huge impact on the local community as many of the farmers left the land to work on the mine.

William Webster, who died in 1684, bequeathed the interest of some shares he held for the poor of both Huyton and Tarbock. Known as Webster's Dole this legacy survived for nearly three hundred years. Another example of local charity is that of the Oddfellows. This group established a lodge in Prescot in 1827 and become very active in the area. In Tarbock alone during the late 1830s three separate lodges were founded, although two did very quickly disband due to lack of members, the Farmers Rest Lodge was more successful and held regular meetings in the Brick Wall Inn. Each July, to mark their foundation day, they would march along Greensbridge Road to Halewood.

Improved communications came in the late 1720s with the Liverpool-Warrington Turnpike Trust passing through the township. Although it doesn't appear to have had the same impact it did in other townships it passed through. In the mid 1770s a canal to link the River Mersey

with the Sankey Canal was proposed. This route would have gone via Halewood, Cronton and Tarbock but was opposed by the Earl of Derby and the Earl of Sefton as being unnecessary and after a few years the scheme was dropped.

In the late nineteenth century there seems to have been a phase of re-development, albeit on a small scale with the Post Office and Smithy building which was originally thatched, being rebuilt in 1884. In 1890 a large pavilion was built alongside the Brick Wall Inn and was an important centre for social and community events until it was demolished in 1940 as part of the complete re-building of the Brick Wall Inn site.

Of far more significance was the sale of the Tarbock Estate by a public auction in 1926 at the local Hare and Hounds Hotel. The Sale Catalogue that was produced for the sale provides a detailed insight into the various properties, their value and their tenants, many of whom bought their property. The Estate measured nearly 2,300 acres (9.3 km²) and featured twenty farms including Georgeson's Farm and Wood Lane Farm and over fifty houses and cottages.

The original Brick Wall Inn was a plain square building built using handmade bricks and over a period of years a number of outbuildings including a shippon and stables were added. For over a century the license was held by the Ambrose family. Until the 1880s the ale sold was that brewed by Fleetwood's at the Brewery House on the opposite side of the road. In the 1920s the brewery was bought by the Burtonwood Brewery Company, who made further alterations before it was demolished in 1940 and a new brewery house was built.

As the Brick Wall so clearly illustrates whilst many of the properties have histories attached to them, these are often the legacy of former buildings. More recently Tarbock has increased in prominence through its proximity to the Tarbock Interchange. This roundabout is believed to be the largest in Europe with a circumference of a mile.