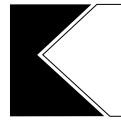


# 2005

## CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL



Knowsl@y Council

# Town End, Cronton

## Location

Cronton is an attractive rural village. The Conservation Area has some outstanding buildings with various architectural styles ranging from the impressive manor house, to the localised architecture of sandstone barns. Arable land surrounds the village and the former 17th Century sandstone quarry of Pex Hill, now an attractive wooded recreational area, overlooks the site.

## History

Cronton appears in the Norman document the Testa de Nevill as Grohinton and Crohinton, and in other sources it appears as Croynton (1292), Croenton (1348) and Crawenton (1562), this later spelling reflecting its Saxon origin as a 'settlement of crows'.

Cronton was part of the barony of Widnes in 1212. Cronton Hall was owned by the Wright family from the early 17th century, although the present hall is thought to date from the early 18th century.

The buildings at Town End form an important group related to the hall and can be seen on the Tithe map of 1843. The focus of the Town End part of the township is



Cronton Hall, 1906.



Date of Photograph: 1998.  
Cronton Cross, Town End, Cronton.

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Cronton Cross, which is thought to mark a resting place for funeral processions on their way to Farnworth Church. Very few village crosses have survived, consequently Cronton Cross is an important landmark and is Grade II listed.

Cronton was renowned in the sixteenth century for its array of tool-workshops and inherited a similar reputation to the watch making industry from neighbouring Prescot.



Cronton Hall and Gate Piers.

## Townscape and Key Buildings

Lyme Tree Court is a collection of historic farm outbuildings that have been sympathetically converted into residential dwellings and the unusual Dutch barn has also been successfully converted into residential use.

Cronton Hall in Hall Lane has the classic shape and proportions of a 'Queen Anne' house. The outbuildings include 18th and 19th century brick barns and a stone coach house which is built around a cobbled courtyard. The gate piers at the front of the hall are listed and the two square stone piers are panelled with tall slender urns on the top and wrought iron gates. Cronton Hall itself is surprisingly unlisted.

Town End Farm is believed to be the oldest building in the village by virtue of its 1705 date stone. It is a two-storey Grade II red sandstone building which is half-timbered at the rear.



Sunnyside Farmhouse, Cronton.



Town End Cottages, Cronton.

Sunnyside Farmhouse is a two storey Grade II Listed Building built in brick dating from the early 17th Century. It is a rare example of cruck construction, with low proportions and gabled wing. The quaint Town End Cottages form an attractive group of three terraced cottages. Stonecross farmhouse is a sandstone house of similar age to Town End Farm but with a more recent brick extension and still has some chamfered mullion windows and possibly a medieval core.

## Potential Improvements

- Ensure alterations to properties are sympathetic to the Conservation Area;
- Consider placing the area under an Article 4 Direction;
- Aim to improve views and vistas by screening modern buildings with appropriate landscaping/fencing/walls; and
- Introduce an interpretation feature and signage to highlight the boundaries and places of interest in the Conservation Area.

## Glossary

### Article 4 Direction

A legal direction imposed by the Council which requires that development which would otherwise be 'Permitted Development' will require planning permission.

### Conservation Area

Areas of special historic or architectural character. New development within these areas must preserve or enhance the special characteristics of the area.

### Listed Building

Buildings or other structures which are on a statutory list because of their special architectural or historic character, and which are protected from demolition or inappropriate alterations. Listed Building Consent is required for works affecting these buildings.

### Permitted Development Rights

Under government legislation, certain forms of minor development (such as small extensions to houses, small fences and walls, small extensions to factories) are automatically granted planning permission. This means that you do not always need to apply to the Council for planning permission for these forms of development. However, the rules governing these 'Permitted Development' rights are complex and you are always advised to contact the Council for advice. In some areas (eg. some Conservation Areas, converted barns and in some housing estates) Permitted Development rights have been removed by the Council meaning that planning permission is required even for the smallest extensions to houses, boundary walls, etc.

### Trees

Tree coverage provides a vital aspect of the character and appearance of a Conservation Area, therefore they too are protected through legislation. Any work affecting trees within the Conservation Areas requires six weeks notice to be given to the Council.

