

Enhancing our natural heritage

Introduction

Great Boughton Parish Council plans to celebrate the history of its open spaces, provide interpretation opportunities and enhance each area. The Parish Council owns and maintains a number of open spaces in the parish area and all have an interesting past. These areas are important for our community recreation and well-being now and in the future.

The Open Spaces

The Parish Council looks after the following areas (Appendix 1):

- Thackeray Drive playing field and playground, see the Big Orchard proposal
- Queens Road recreation field
- Dulverton Avenue field
- Old Laundry Corner
- Pearl Lane Allotments
- Caldry Valley Meadow
- Vaughans Lane Playground

Proposals

- To explore and document the history of each site using on line research, maps, photograph, vocal collections
- To provide interpretation facilities through site signage, website pages, virtual/ physical tours/ visits
- To provide a physical/ virtual document/ photographic library of Great Boughton areas in conjunction with Great Boughton Library
- To develop enhancement proposal for each site with the local community

History of Great Boughton Parish Council

Boughton is a suburb of Chester located a mile to the east of the city on a bend in the River Dee. Boughton has a long history stretching back into Roman times. Natural pure water springs were tapped and water transported to the Roman fortress nearby. Important Roman roads into the fortress were lined with cremation burials and possibly monuments. Traces of a Roman Temple were discovered near Boughton Bars. In the middle-ages Boughton was a place of execution and the housing of the sick. Much of Boughton was destroyed in the English Civil War.

The Parish Council was founded in 1894 and most of the current buildings date from the development of a number of housing 'estates' from the 1960s, spreading out from the older areas of Boughton and Vicar Cross Road (Appendix 2). The book 'A History of the Civil Parish of Great Boughton Cheshire' by Cecil F Wright published in 1997, provide further reading on the history of the Parish.

Appendix 4, documents each site and some of the history as an illustration of what could be covered during this proposal.

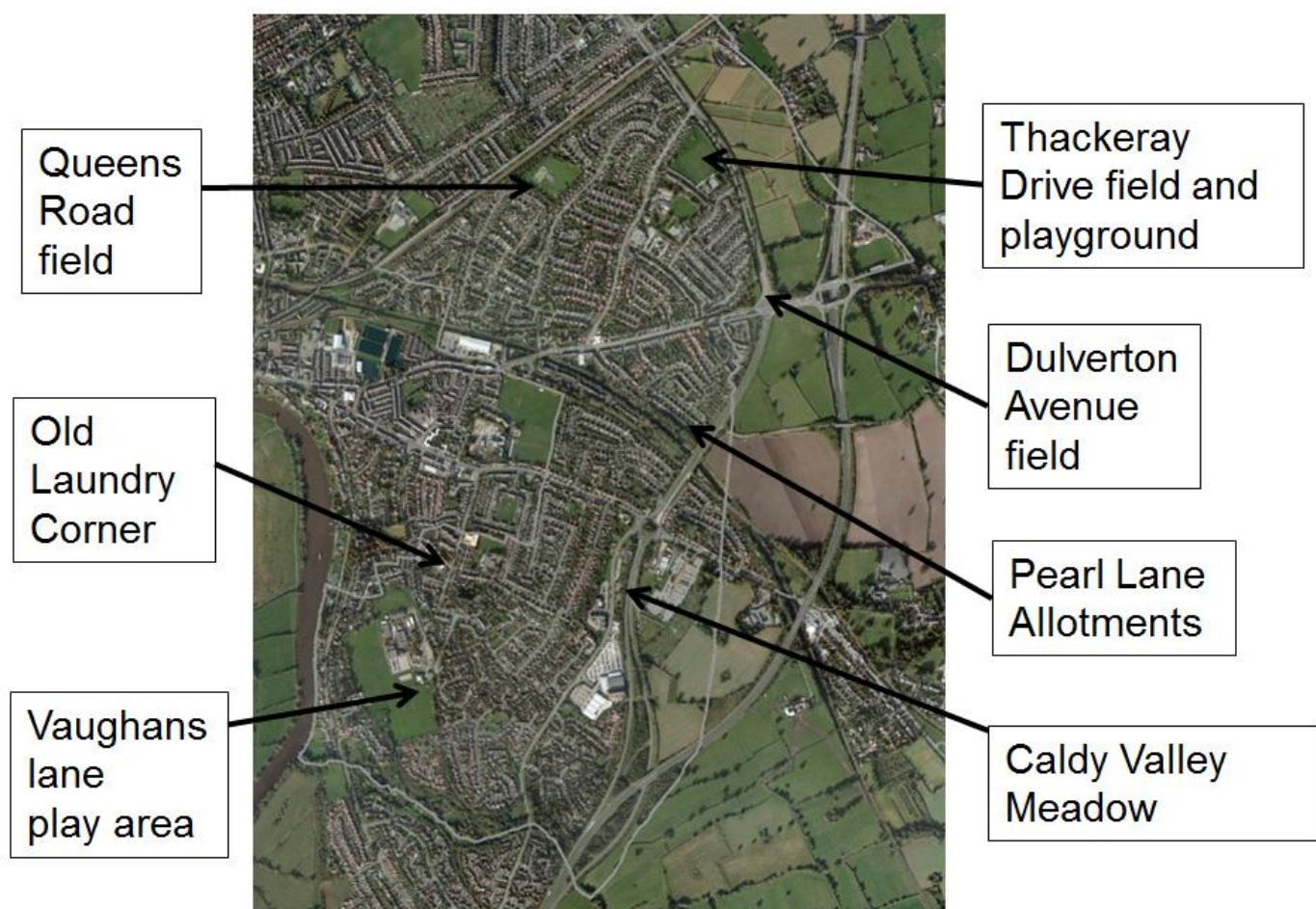
Contact

Kath Lloyd, Clerk to Great Boughton Parish Council

Phone 01244 637277, Mobile 07709512348

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

Appendix 1: Areas maintained by Great Boughton Parish Council

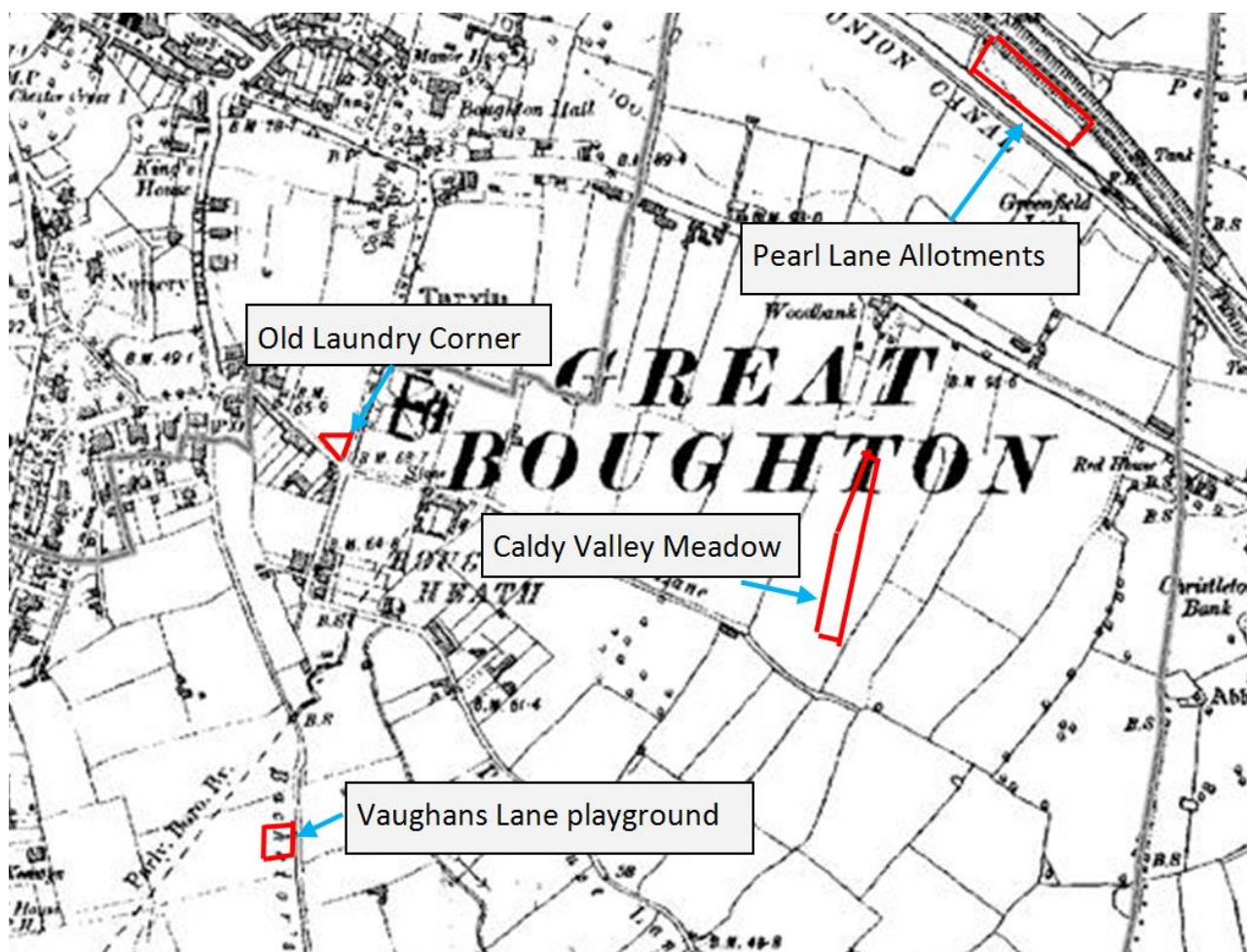
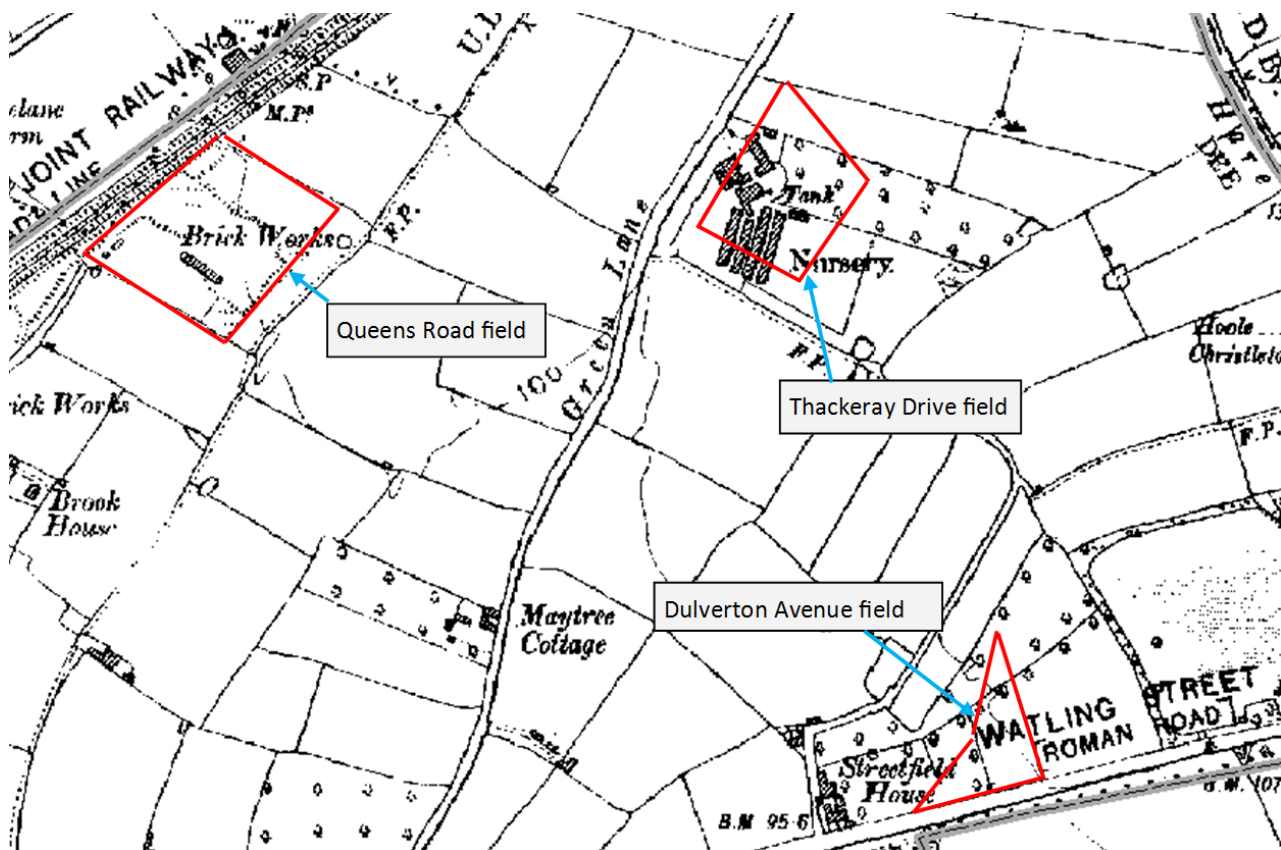


Appendix 2: Time zones for the development of Great Boughton

reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Chester City Council LA077526 1996.



Appendix 3: Areas marked on the Ordnance Survey map from 1911-1913



Appendix 4: Site Proforma's

Site name: **Queens Road Field**

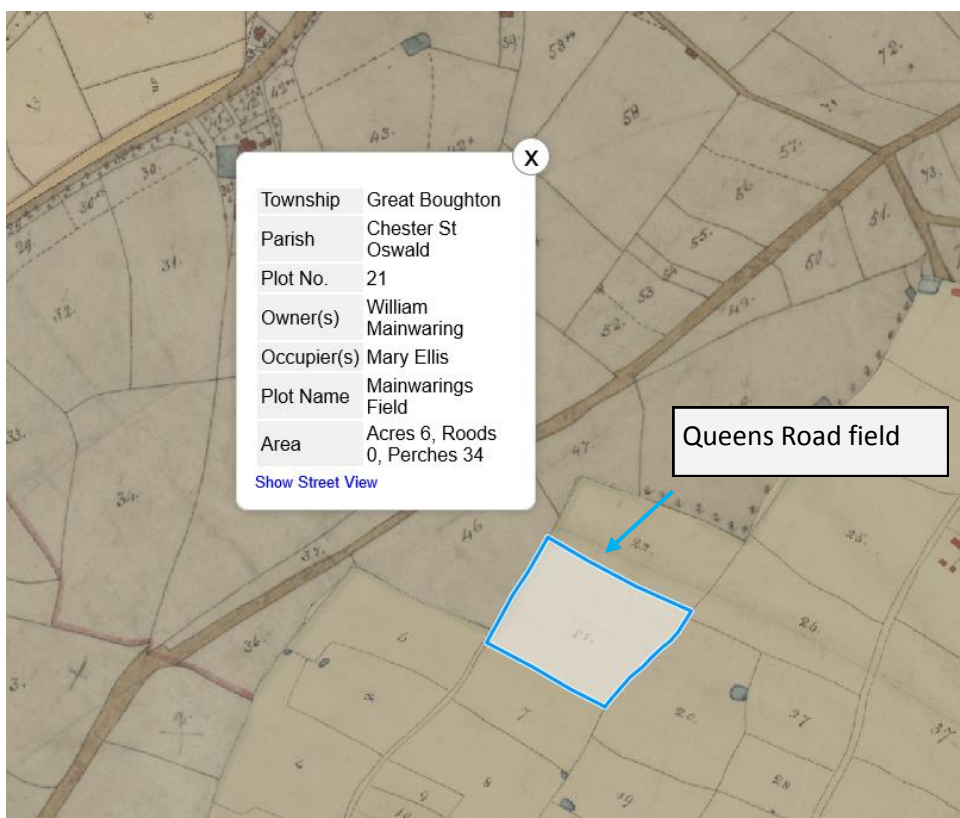
Current use: Open space/ playground/ multi-use area/ woodland

History: Clay pit, Brick works, municipal waste tip, adjacent to the Helsby railway built in 1850. The brickworks works had only small buildings. The process would have been entirely manual although by the end of the 19th century mechanisation was well established in the industry. Small scale brickmaking was a rural industry. If a deposit of suitable clay was found brickworks was often established and continued until the deposit was worked out or local needs was satisfied, when the site was abandoned.

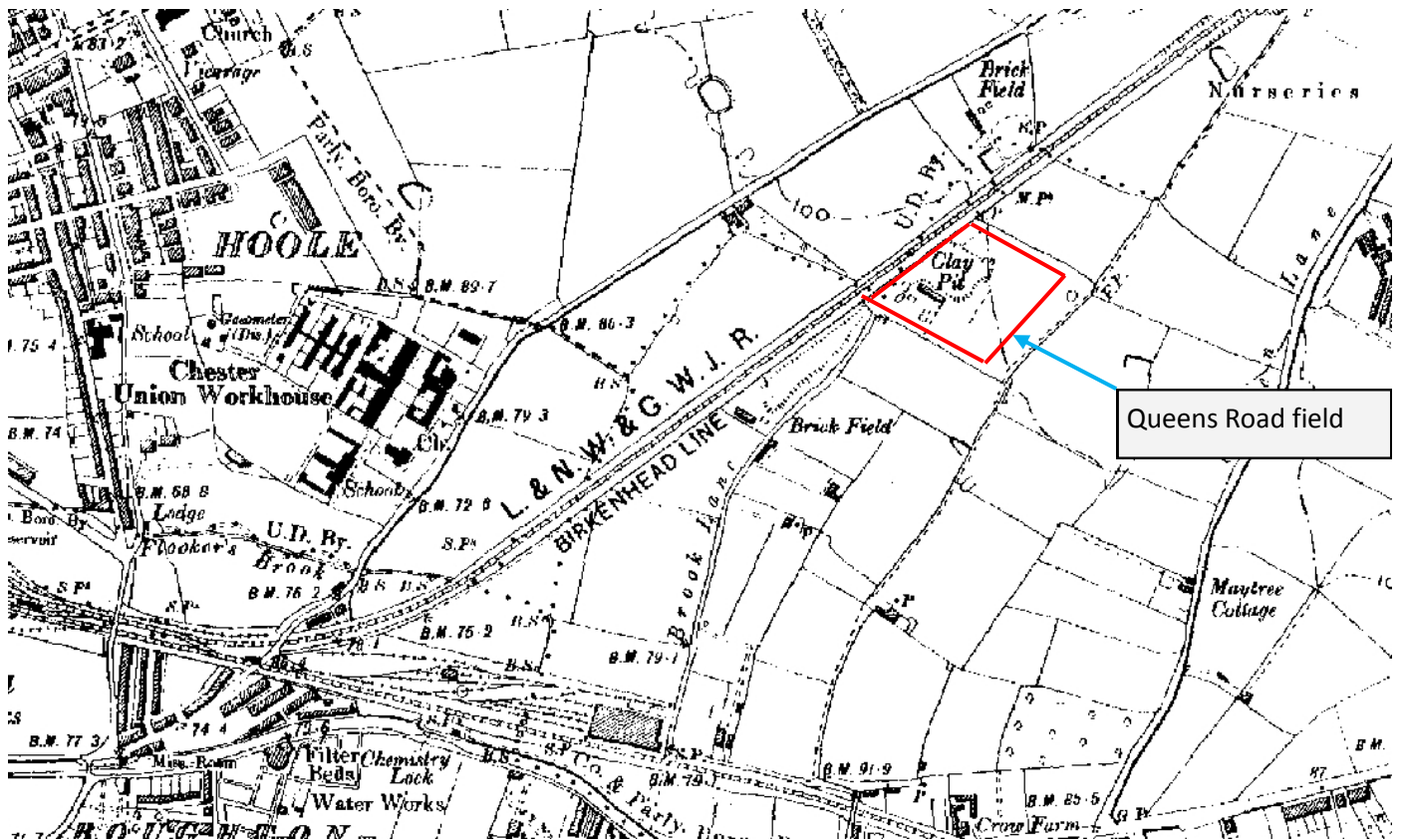
Possible enhancements: New playground equipment, meadow development

Maps/ aerial photos:

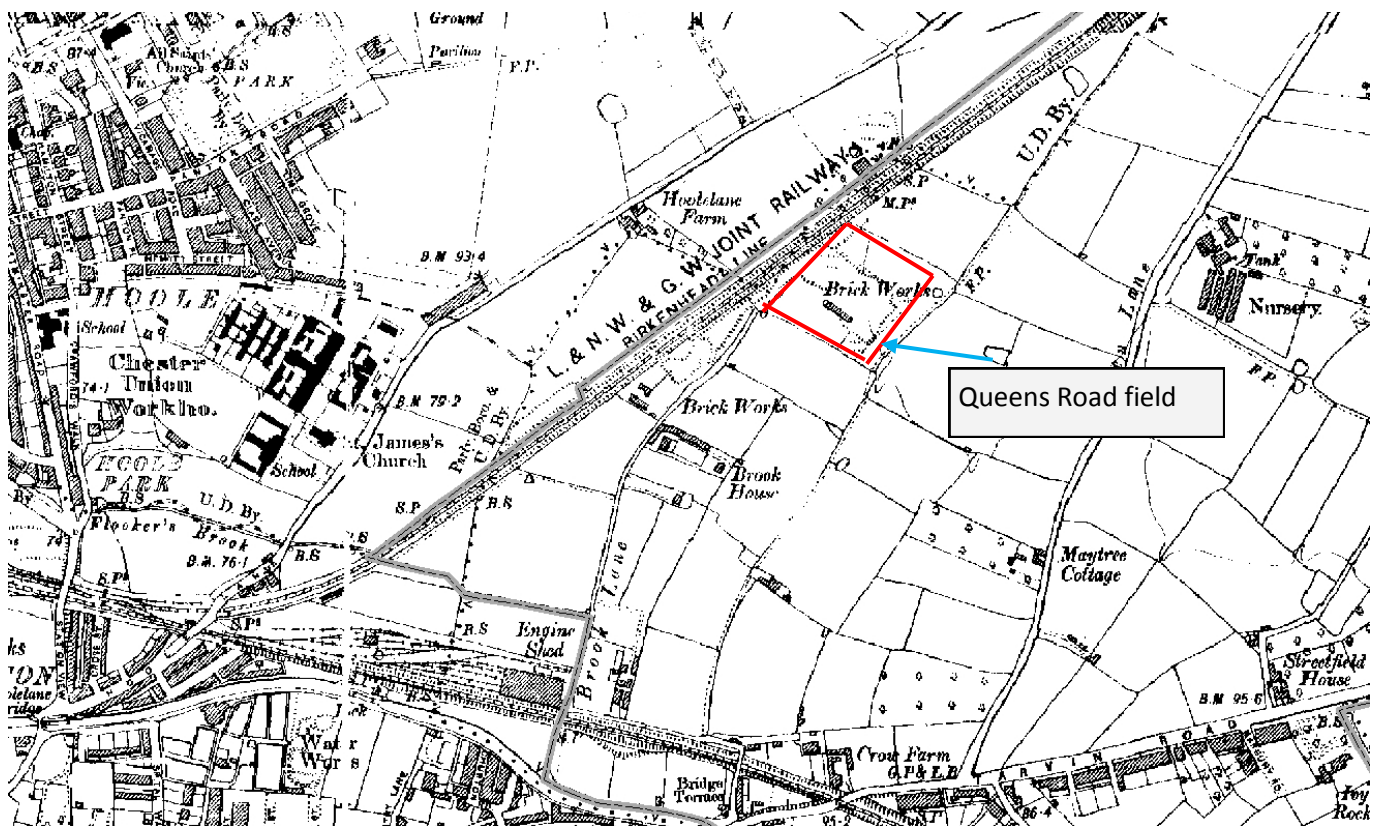
Tithe map 1836-51



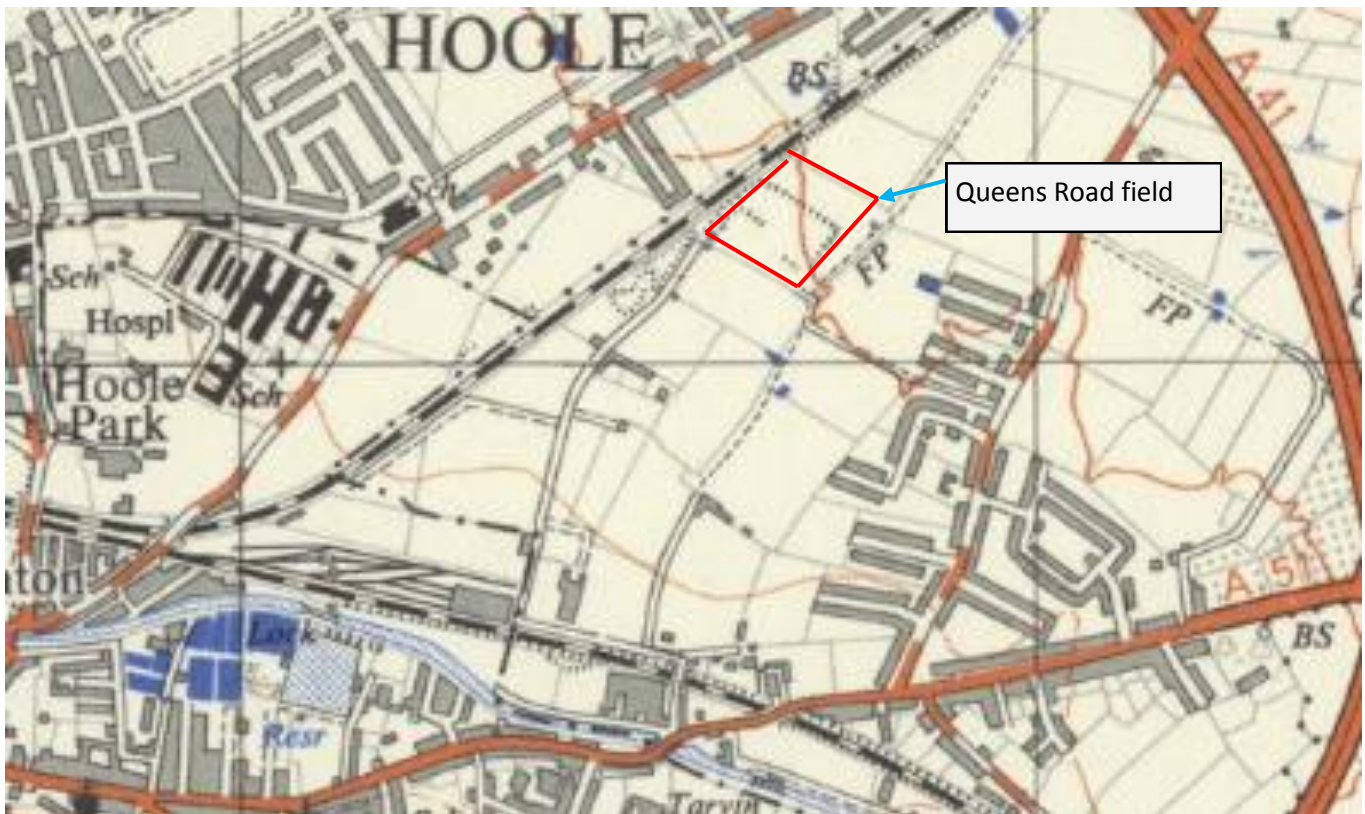
1898 map



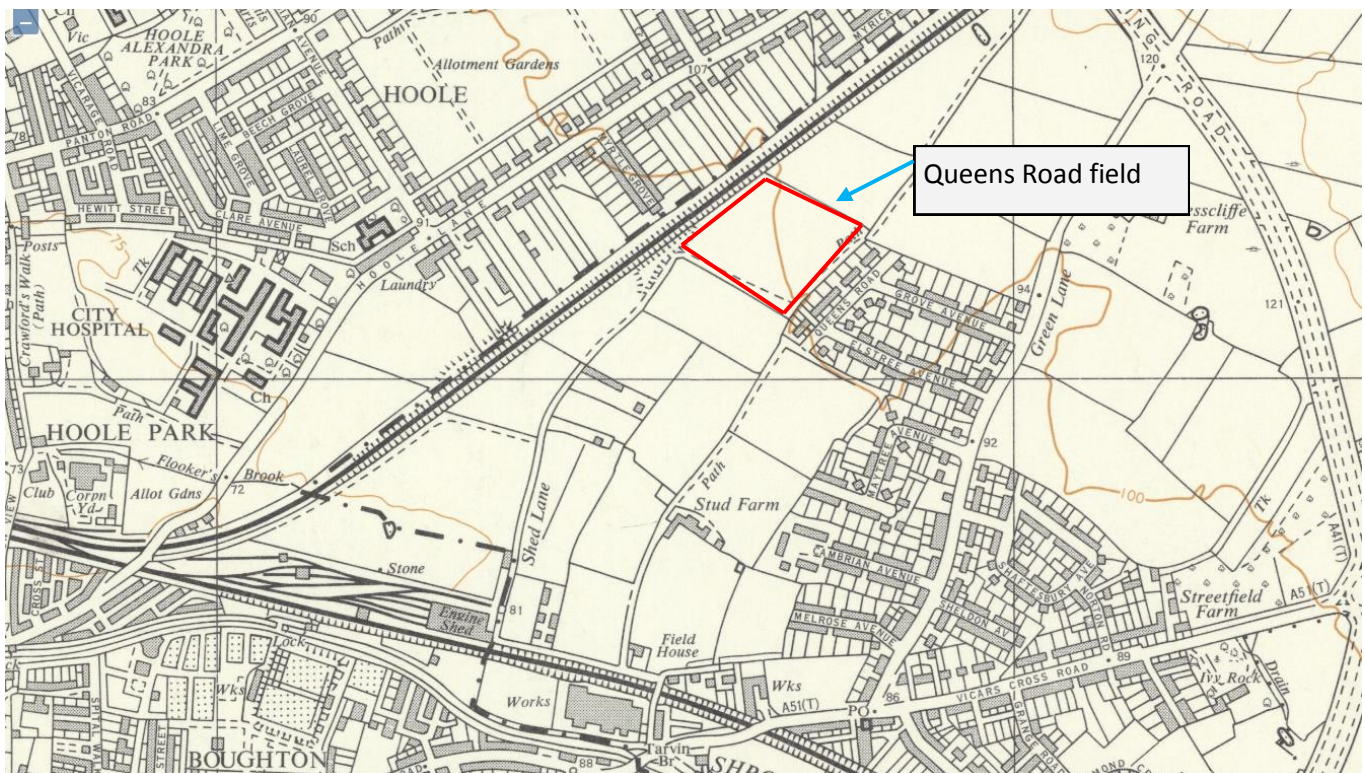
1910 map



1950 Map



1968 map



Aerial from 1999-2003



Aerial from 2010



Appendix 4: Site Proforma's

Site name: **Dulverton Avenue Field**

Current use: Open space and woodland

History: Adjacent to Watling Street Roman Road used from 90AD until the 4th Century. In the past the site has been an orchard, plant nursery, and earmarked for slip road to connect the M53 into the A41.

"The M53 motorway, constructed in the 1970's ended to the north of the Parish near Hoole at the A56 which connected it to the City. Traffic to and from North Wales had to use the old by-pass between it and the new A55. The Government proposal for a link was a short extension of the M53 to join a widened by-pass at Green Lane which would continue to the A55 beyond the Whitchurch Road. There were to be elevated roundabouts over the Tarvin and Whitchurch roads, with connections to both, and parts of the road would have been higher than the roofs of adjacent houses.

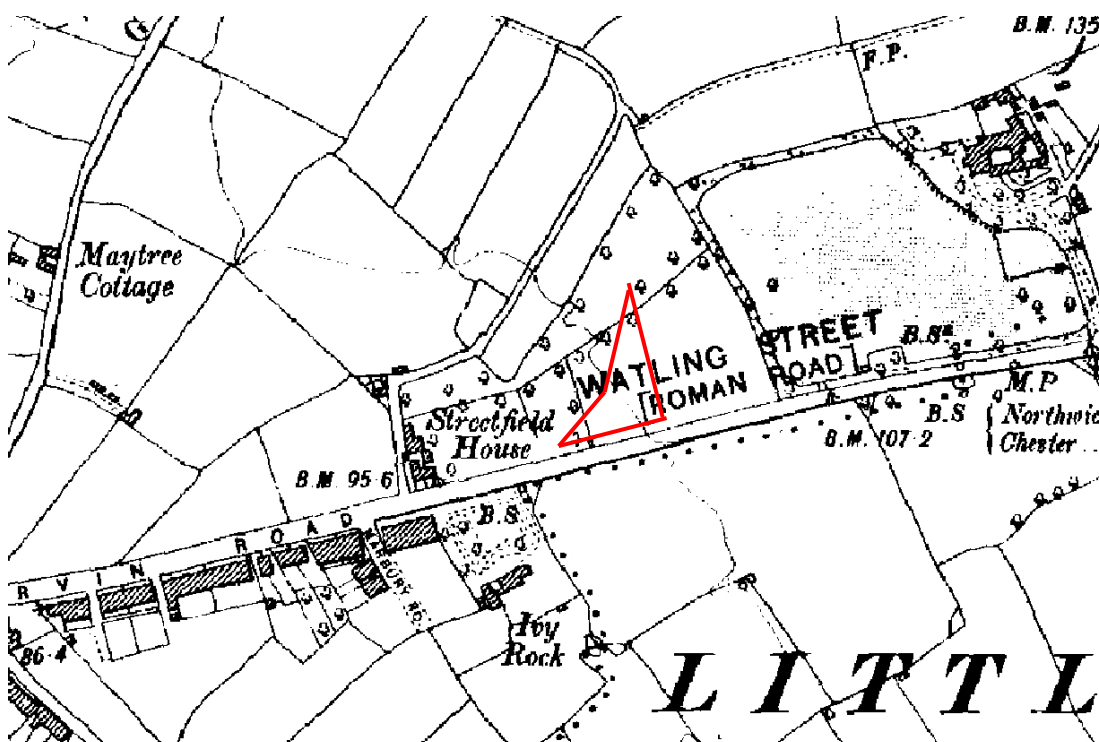
This was strenuously resisted by Great Boughton Parish Council and local campaigners who proposed an alternative route through open country from the M53 to the A55 near Caldys Valley Brook. This, in turn, was opposed by the Parish Councils of Littleton and Christleton, whose boundaries it crossed.

After a public enquiry, the Inspector favoured the 'country' route. His decision was influenced by the fact that over 1,000 houses lay within 200 metres of the edge of the Government proposals and would be liable to intrusive levels of noise and air pollution whereas the 'country' route would affect only 65 dwellings. The completion of this route in 1990 much improved the environment of the eastern parts of the Parish." Extract from A History of the Civil Parish of Great Boughton Cheshire by Cecil f Wright in 1997

Possible enhancements: Meadow development

Maps/ aerial photos:

1910 map



1950 map



2010 aerial



Proposed road layout to link the M32 into the A51 showing an elevated roundabout and slip roads, one of which would have taken out part of Dulverton Avenue field



Appendix 4: Site Proforma's

Site name: **Pearl Lane Allotments**

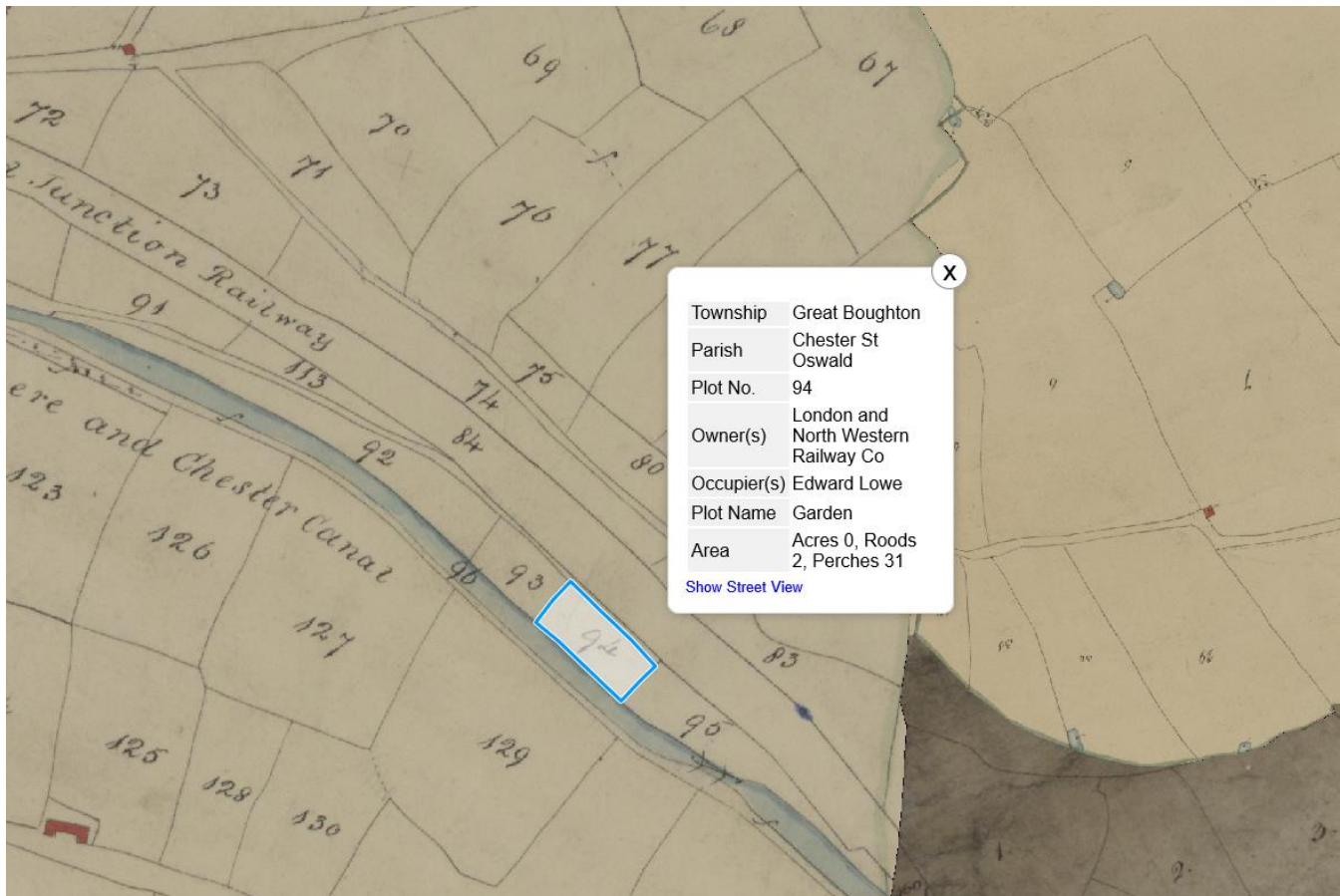
Current use: Allotments between the Shropshire Union Canal (constructed 1770s) and the London to Chester Railway line (built late 1830s).

History: Two plots owned by the London and North Western Railway Co

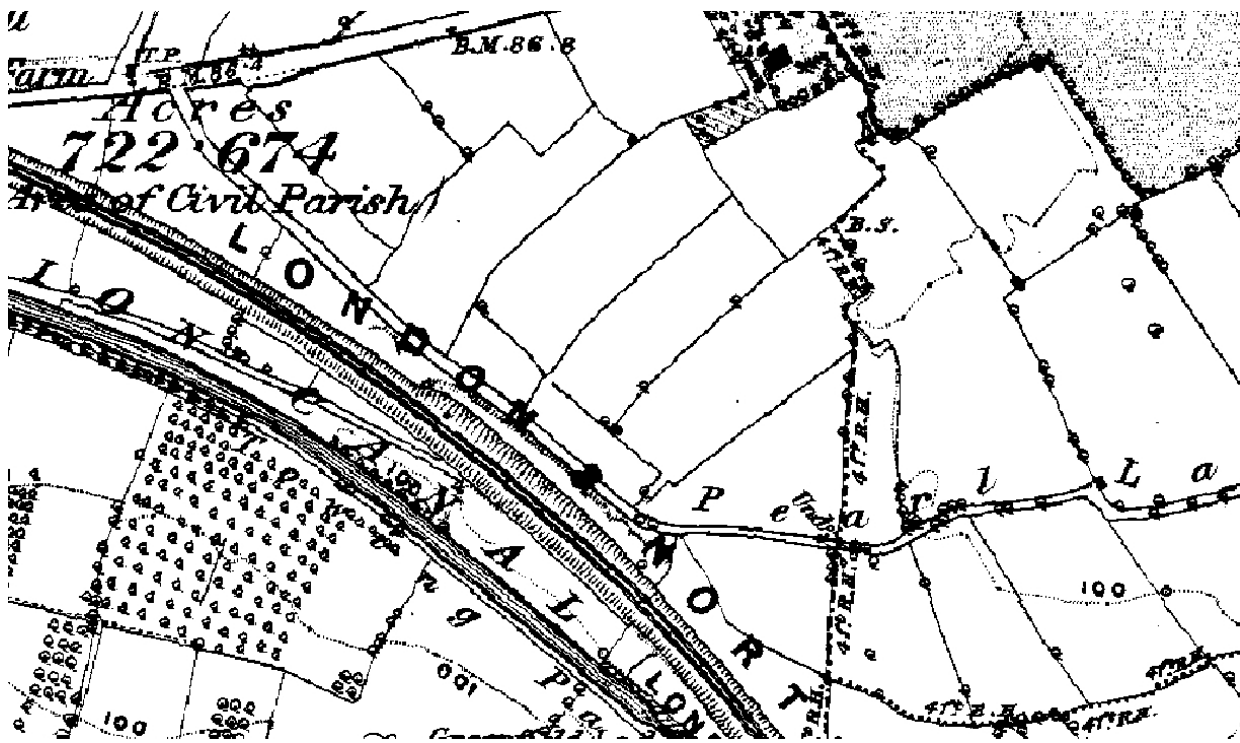
Possible enhancements: Access improvements, tree planting

Maps/ aerial photos:

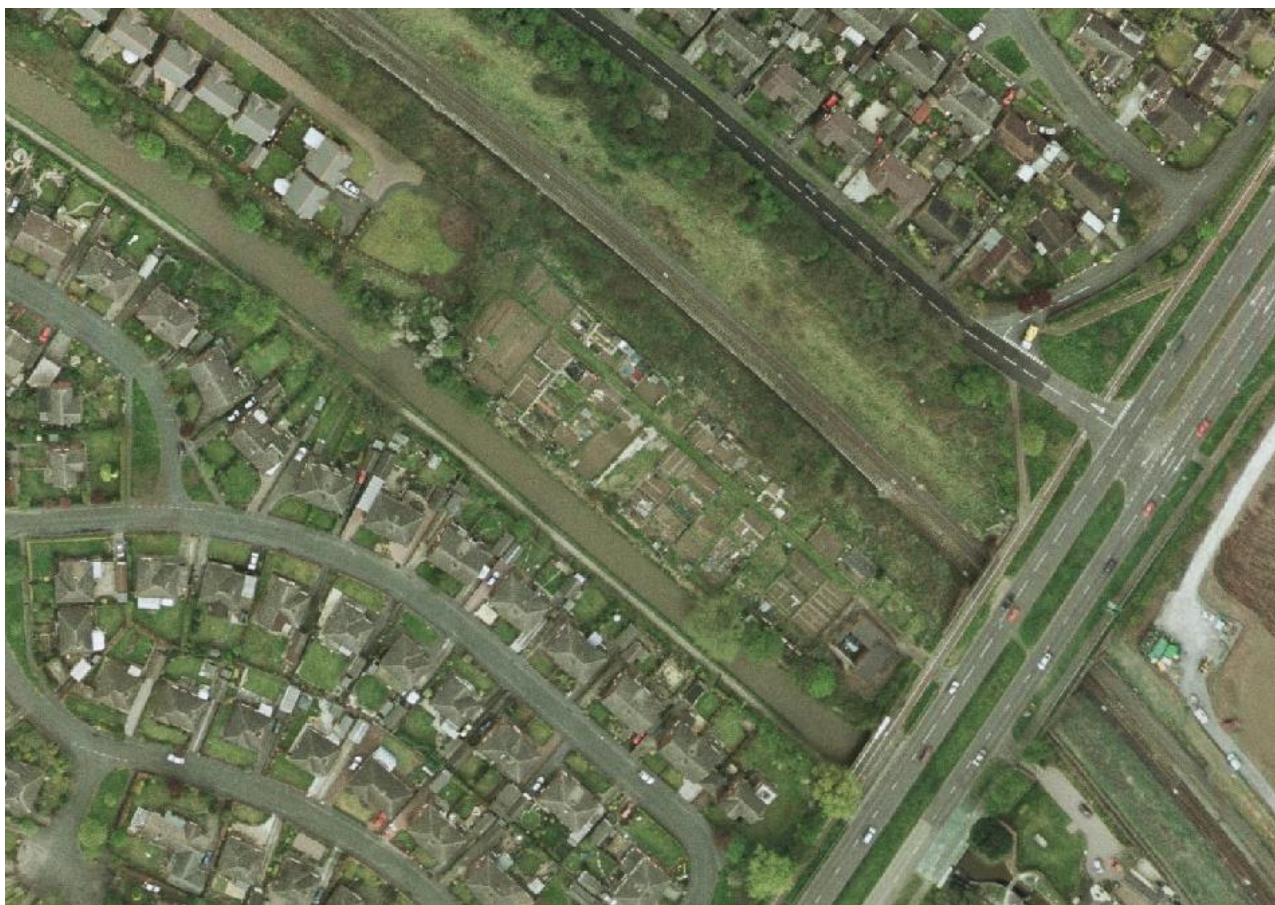
1836-1851 Tithe map



1875 Map



1999 – 2003 Aerial



Aerial 2015-2017



Appendix 4: Site Proforma's

Site name: **Caldy Valley Meadow**

Current use: Meadow, footpath, community allotments, boules pitch, shrub/ woodland

History:

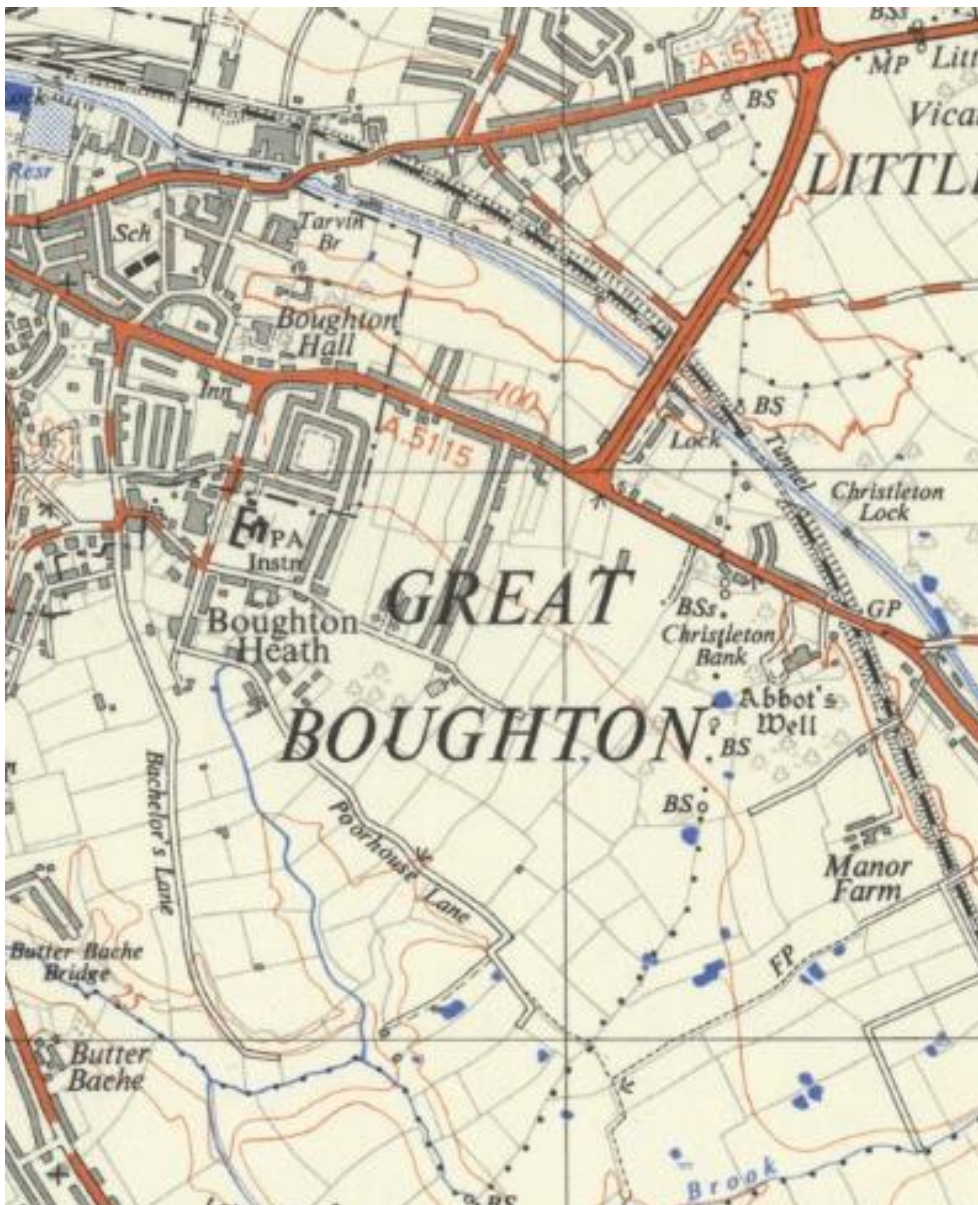
In the 1980s as new housing areas grew up on the outskirts of Chester, there was a vision for a new church and community centre, and a partnership was formed between the Methodist and United Reformed churches and Great Boughton Parish Council.

Two congregations based in the city centre (Methodist Central Hall and Northgate URC) decided to unite and move to a new home to create the Caldly Valley Neighbourhood Church. A plot of land was donated to the Church and the Council by Sainsburys. As work on the building began, church services were held in local schools. The building was opened in 1984.

Possible enhancements: Meadow enhancement, footpath development, community allotment

Maps/ aerial photos:

1950 map



The unfinished 1930's bypass – the A41- swept down a dual carriageway from the north and ended abruptly at the Whitchurch Road in a junction which became notorious for congestion immediately petrol was de-rationed in 1950.

Lanes and footpaths are shown which run between open fields whose outlines can be recognised on the Tithe Map. The workhouse became a Public Assistance Institution but the lane beyond it, Poorhouse Lane, was a reminder of its origins for a further twenty years until it was renamed Heath Lane.

In the 1970's the government proposed to extend the M53 motorway using a short extension to join a widened by-pass at Green Lane which would continue to the A55 beyond the Whitchurch Road. There was to be an elevated roundabout over the Whitchurch road, with connections to both, and parts of the road would have been higher than the roofs of adjacent houses.

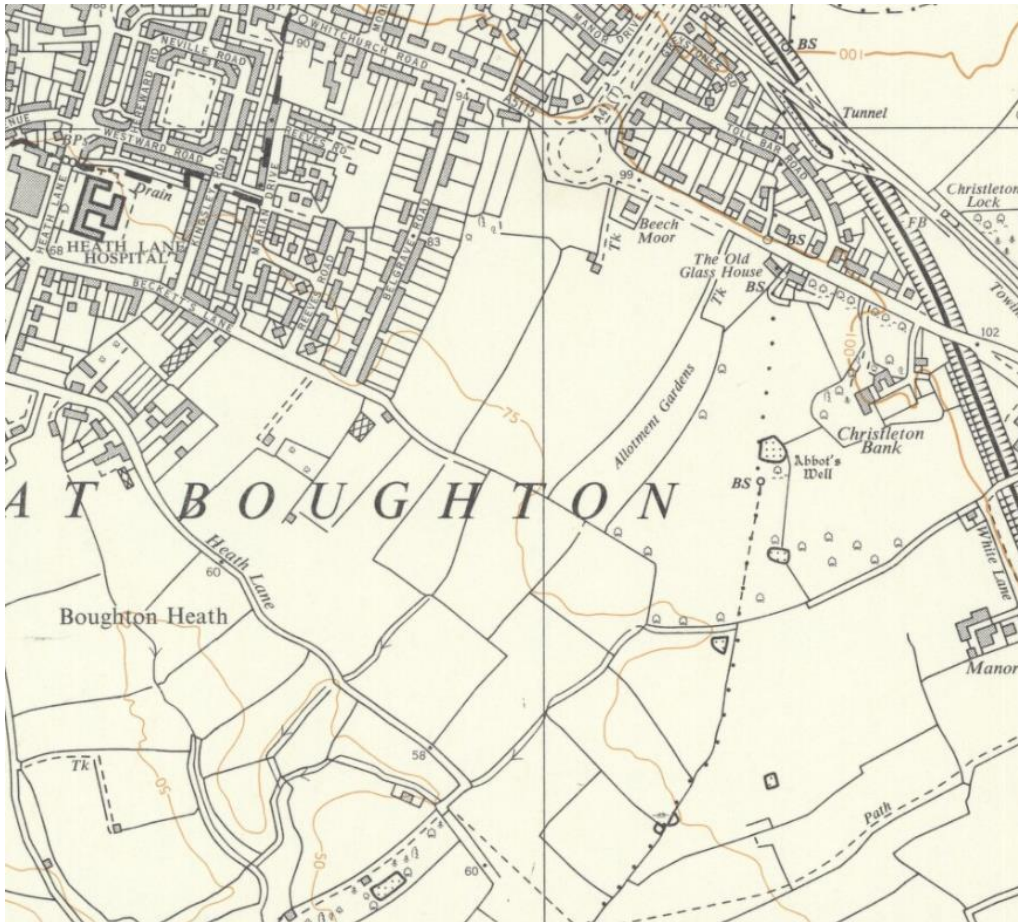
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Proposed layout of the Sainsbury Roundabout



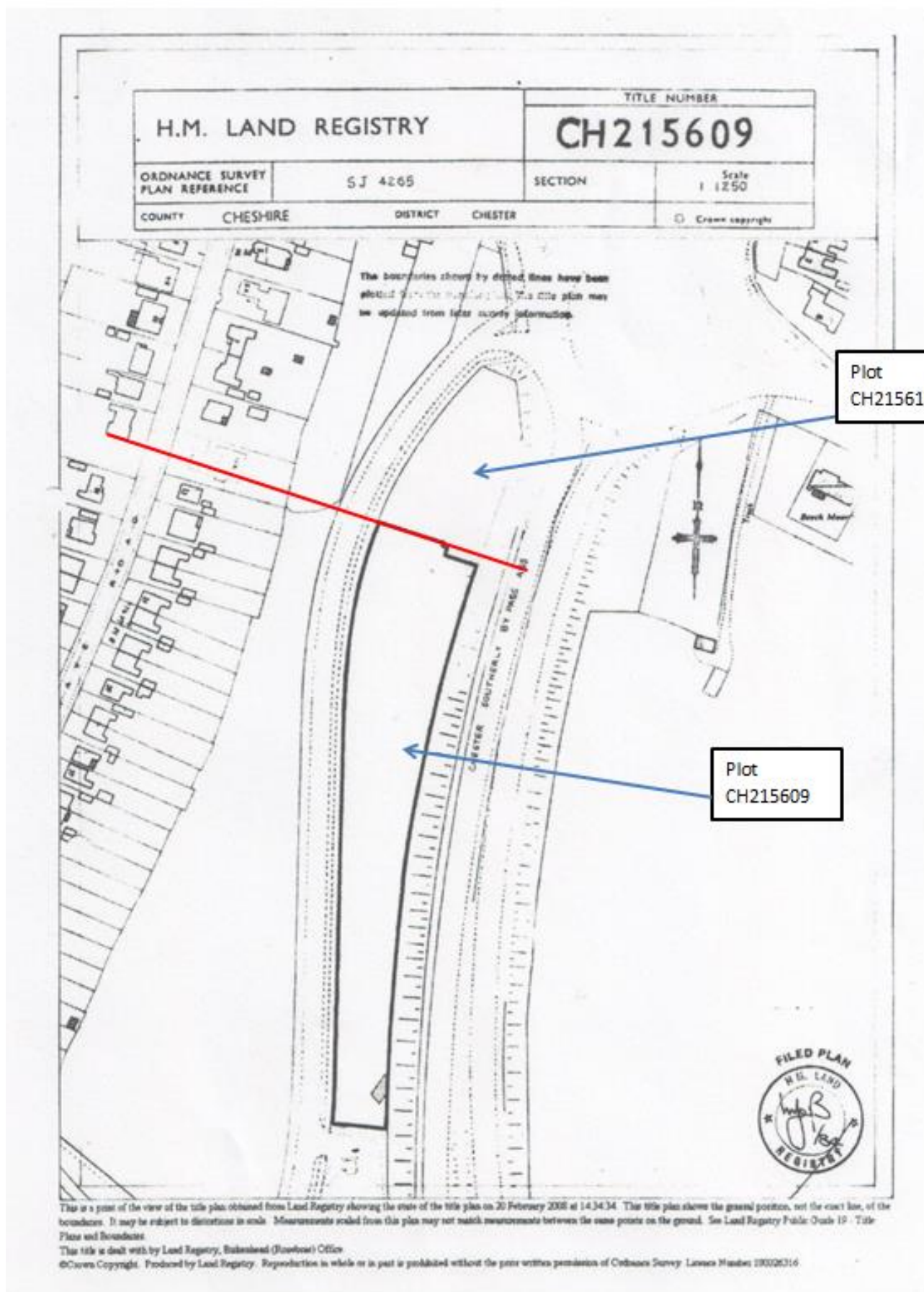
The southern extension of the Chester bypass was started in 1972 and completed in 1976. This bypass was itself bypassed when the M53 was linked to the southern bypass in the early 1990s



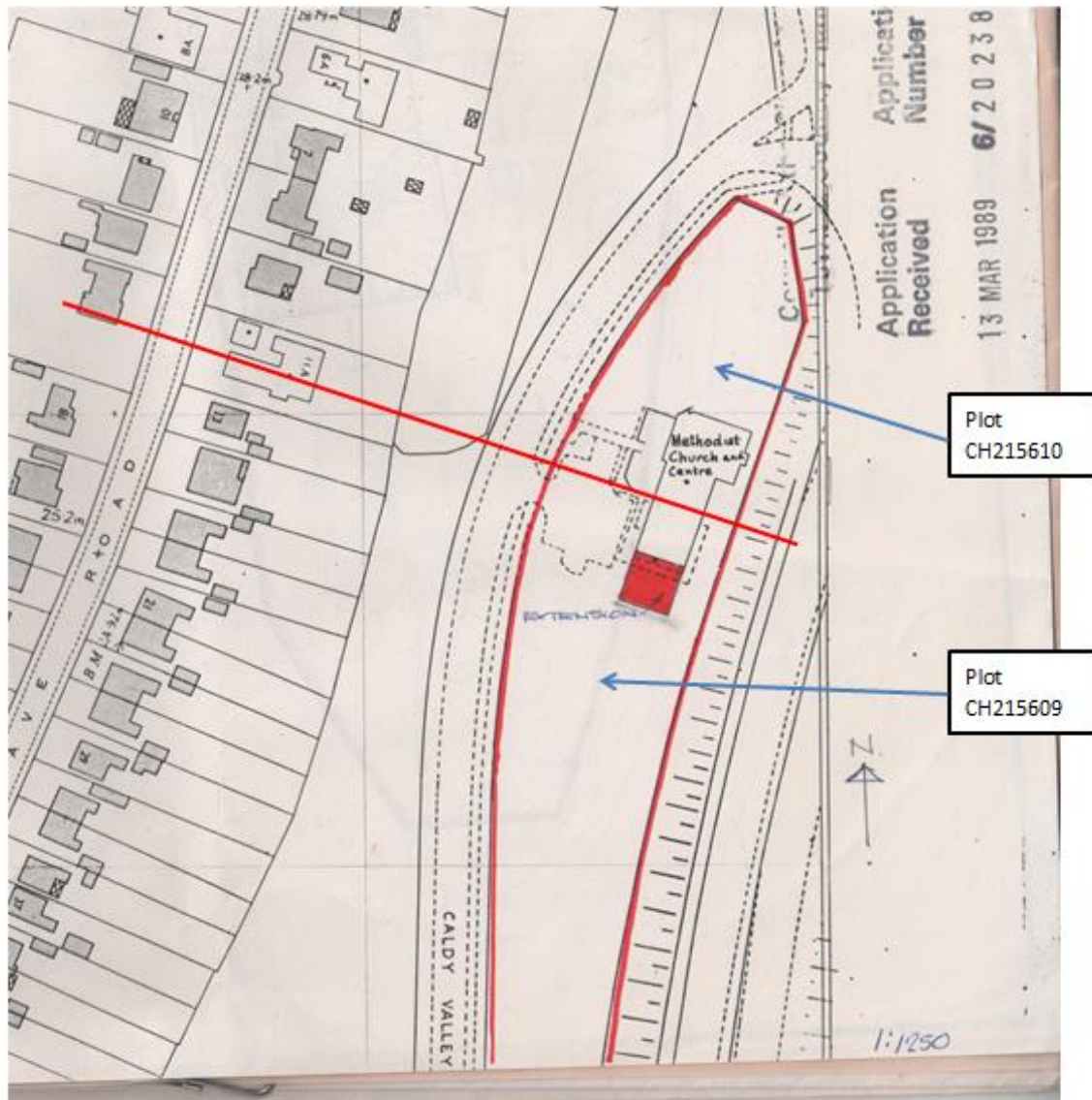
Aerial photo from 1971 -1973



a. Land registry map from 1983 showing Plot CH215609 and Plot CH215610



b. Plan of Caldy Valley for planning application for the Extension 1989:



Ownership
Reference Line
between plots







Appendix 4: Site Proforma's

Site name: **Old Laundry Corner**

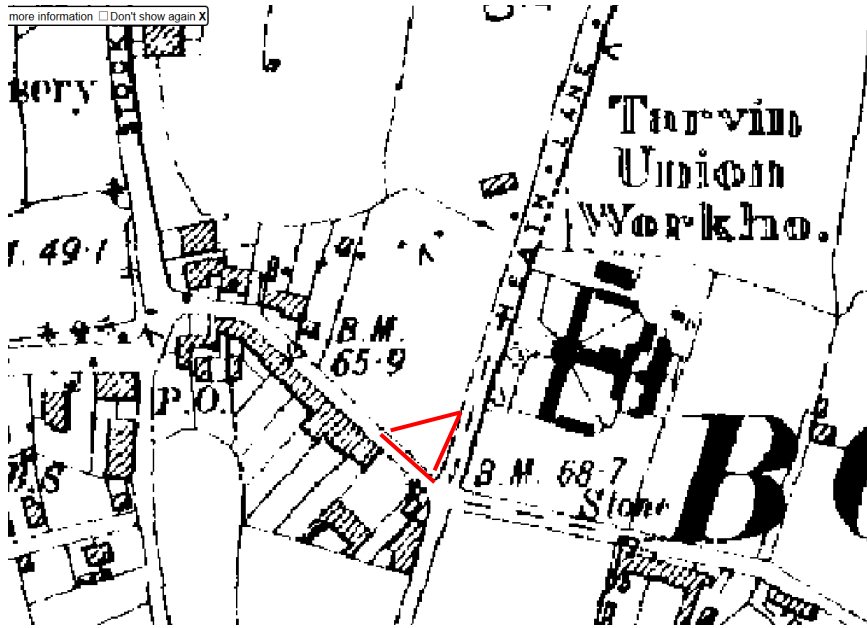
Current use: Small open space, seating

History: Part of Chester Steam Laundry site

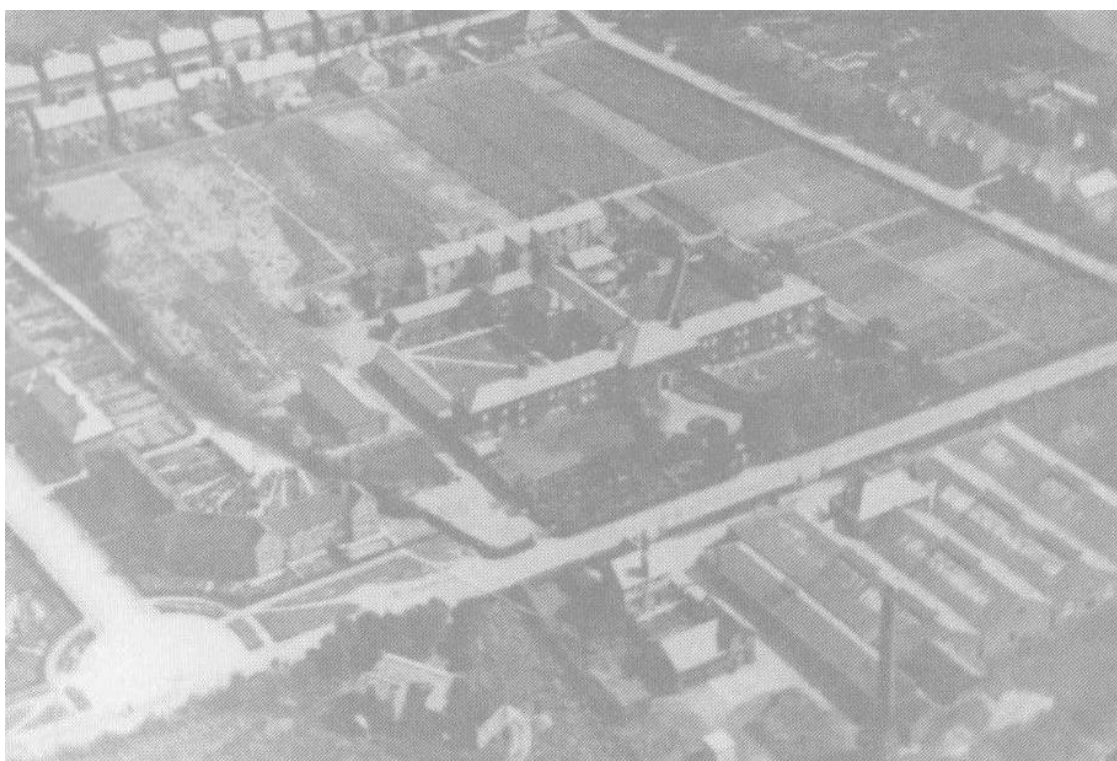
Possible enhancements: Additional toddlers playground equipment

Maps/ aerial photos:

The map from c 1901 show the Tarvin Workhouse and the site of the laundry, yet to be built opposite



This aerial photograph taken in the mid 1920 shows the Chester Steam Laundry in the foreground with its tall chimney with The Tarvin Union Workhouse on the other side of Health Lane.



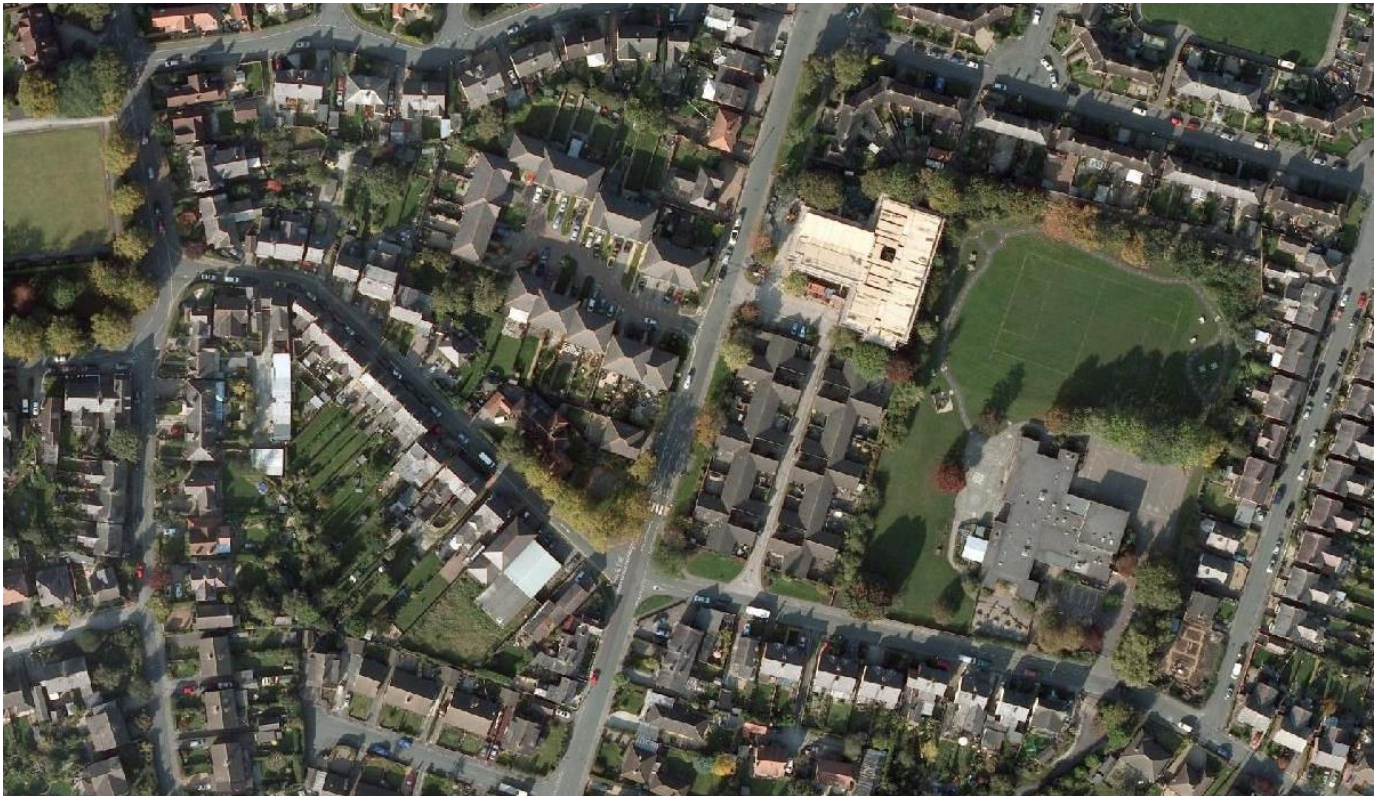
The Workhouse was demolished in 1969 and the aerial photograph from 1971-1973 show the plot, with the buildings of the Chester Steam Laundry.



By the end of the 1990's the Chester Steam Laundry has closed its site on Heath Lane and the site was cleared for housing and Redrow Homes developed the site.



In 2015 gifted Old Launrady Corner to the Parish as a permant small open space and seating area



Appendix 4: Site Proforma's

Site name: **Vaughans Lane Playground**

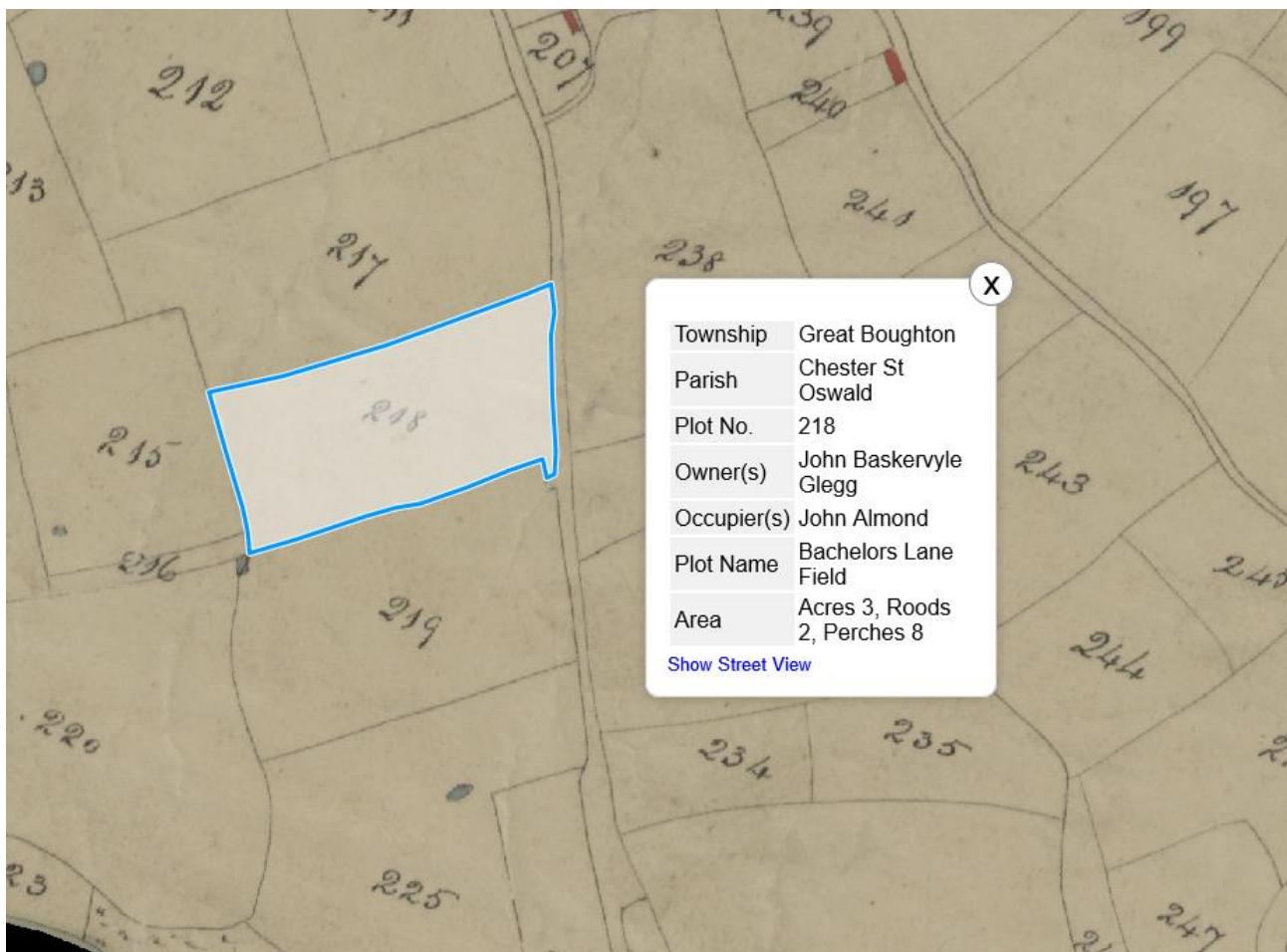
Current use: Playground

History: Lies adjacent to Bachelors Lane, which ran down a brickworks in Caldly Valley, now an open space Gleggs Close, off Caldly Valley Road

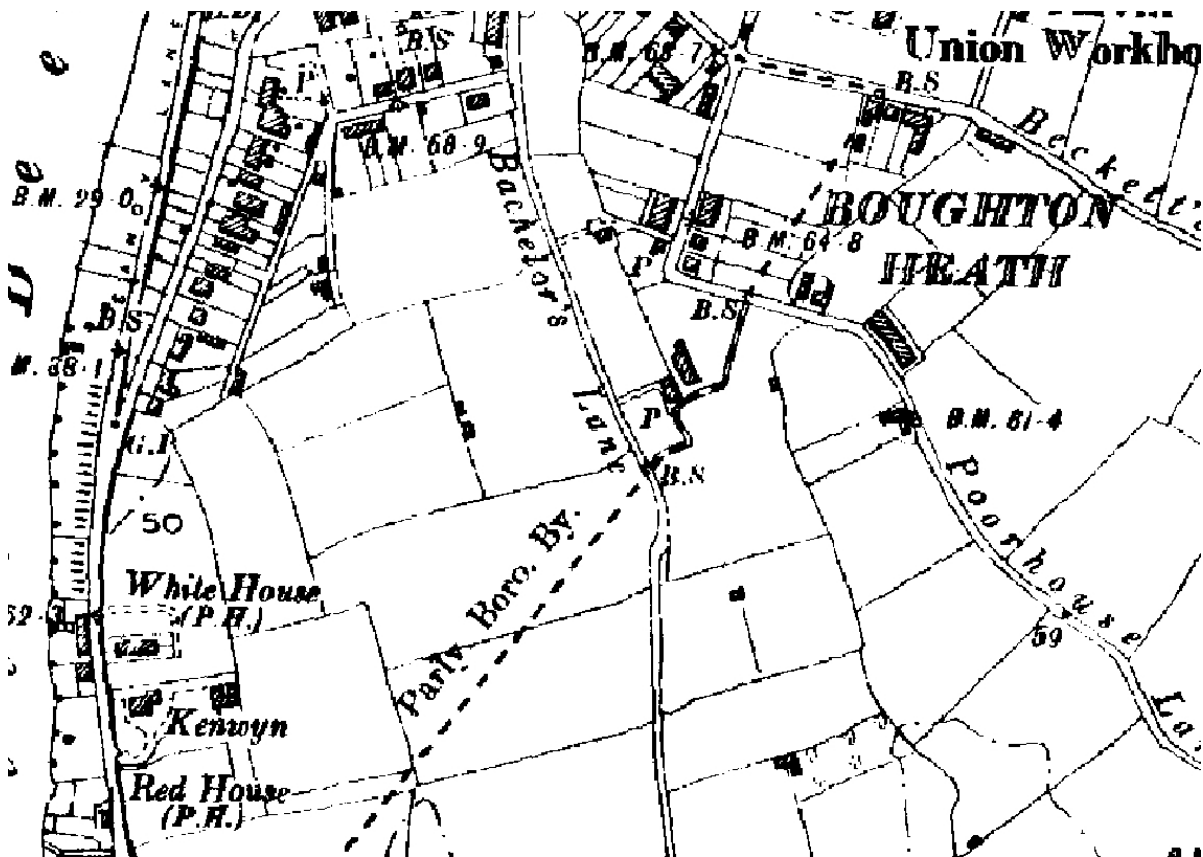
Possible enhancements: Hedge planting to playing field

Maps/ aerial photos:

1836-1851 Tithe map



1898 map



1910 map

