

# MEDIEVAL MOATED SITES AROUND WIGAN

Derek Winstanley

Champaign, Illinois, USA.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Wigan has two thousand years of rich history and heritage. From Roman Coccium, through the Norman invasion, the Medieval period, the Industrial Revolution with its coal mines and cotton mills, to today's diversified economy. Much has been lost, but valuable evidence of the past is preserved in historical records, archaeology and ancient buildings and monuments.

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches of different dimensions, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases, the islands were used for horticulture. The moats provided security and evidence of social and economic status. Most moated sites were built between about 1250 and 1500 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites are widely scattered throughout England, and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. I focus on moated sites in the Wigan area in the Medieval period, some 500 to 800 years ago.

Many moated sites in the Wigan area can be identified on 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, but most have since been destroyed by urban and industrial development (Appendices 1 and 2). It is possible that other moated sites were destroyed before the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As far as I know, none of the original buildings within the moated sites have survived, although some of the original materials are incorporated in later buildings.

Some existing moated sites and their buildings are protected, but understanding their protected status is quite complicated. The moated sites identified by Historic England as scheduled ancient monuments and their associated graded buildings are protected by national law and planning policy and are the focus of Wigan Council's Historic Environment Strategy. Ancient monuments are not rated by category or degree and are all considered of national importance. There are three different grades of listed buildings:

Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest.

Grade II\* buildings are particularly significant buildings above special interest.

Grade II buildings are of special interest and worthy of preservation.

In this paper I adopt three categories of moated sites: 1) scheduled ancient monuments that obviously still exist; 2) existing moated sites that are not scheduled ancient monuments; and 3) moated sites for which there is good historical evidence, but which have been largely destroyed. Many halls did not have moats and not all moated sites had halls (a few were houses).

Wigan Council states that Wigan Borough has 12 scheduled ancient monuments, five of which are moated. It is the moats themselves, together with the platforms within the moats, and sometimes bridges and adjacent fishponds that are scheduled ancient monuments. To complement Wigan Council's descriptions and photographs of the five moated sites, I present additional information, photographs, and maps for the five sites and include the scheduled moated site at Arley Hall in Blackrod. These moated sites have buildings within the moats that are listed buildings and are privately owned.

I provide LiDAR photographs of some moated sites. LiDAR stands for *Light Detection and Ranging* and is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the airborne system — generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics, often penetrating through vegetation. The moats, or remnants of the moats can be seen.

As far as possible, I provide similar information for existing, non-scheduled moated sites. The amount of information I can provide for the destroyed moated sites is generally limited to 19<sup>th</sup> century OS maps. I have not included moated sites for which there is limited documentation, for example Wigan Hall. In focusing on moated sites around Wigan, I have deliberately excluded many other moated sites in south Lancashire.

The six scheduled ancient, moated monuments in the Wigan area are:

1. Winstanley moated site and five fish ponds.
2. Morley's Hall moated site at Astley.
3. New Hall moated site at Tyldesley.
4. Gidlow Hall moated site at Aspull.
5. The Moat House moated site at Haigh.
6. Arley Hall moated site at Blackrod.

This is not the place to document or interpret social, economic, religious, or political conditions during the Medieval period, but some context can be provided. During this period, the population of England was perhaps 3 or 4 million and the population of Wigan about 3 or 4 thousand. Together with other settlements, the total population in the study area was perhaps 6 to 8 thousand, compared with about 300 thousand today. Clearly, population in the Medieval period was very sparse and, outside the metropolis of Wigan and a few smaller settlements, predominantly rural with pasture, arable land, bogs, and woodland.

The country was gradually transforming from a feudal system imposed after the Norman conquest in 1066. The county of Lancashire was first recorded in 1199. In 1246 King Henry III granted Wigan's first royal charter as a market town and established the right of Wiganers to establish merchant guilds and access common ground. The privileged burgesses of Wigan paid rent for their own land and were granted a high degree of freedom. Many of the moated sites were probably owned by lords of the manor, gentry or yeomen.

Merchants and craftsmen provided a backbone for commercial development. Common land was increasingly turned into enclosed land. Peat was cut from the bogs and small amounts of coal were mined. Wool weaving was common. Water and corn mills were built, but Wigan remained landlocked, cut off from direct access to the sea. Horses provided the only form of transport.

Towards the end of the period, King Henry VIII established the Church of England and sacked most of the monasteries, including the Benedictine Monastery at Upholland. Wigan Parish Church with its all-powerful Rector and Lord of the Manor became Church of England and beautiful Tudor-style churches were built in Upholland and Standish.

Unfortunately, we know few details of many of the original halls, farms and homesteads, or of the people who built them and lived in the moated sites.

## **2. SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS**

### **2.i. Winstanley moated site and five fish ponds.**

The moat on this site surrounds a rectangular island on three sides on which would have stood a medieval hall or manor house. The moat is water-filled and 15 metres wide in some places, although the southern arm is dry and partly in-filled. In Workshop Wood to the north-east of the moat are five fishponds, probably constructed at the same time as the moat. These are included in the schedule along with the moat and island. The manor is first mentioned in 1212 and the Winstanley family occupied the site until the late 16th century when a new hall was built 400 metres to the south. The site is of archaeological importance as it has survived well and evidence of the original buildings and organic material exists.

Winstanley Hall, a fine Elizabethan stone hall, was built in Winstanley Park by Thomas Winstanley and his wife, Elizabeth, around 1560. Prior to that time the Winstanleys occupied a moated wooden homestead a short distance northwest of the hall.

I start by describing the manor and township of Winstanley and include information on the homesteads and early members of the Winstanley family. I then provide additional information about Winstanley contained in the Domesday Book of 1086. Further information is gleaned from estate plans and OS maps starting in 1849. LiDAR scans are analyzed to reveal previously unreported information about the moated homestead. I then provide an interpretation of all the evidence about the moated homestead.

## WINSTANLEY

The name Winstanley is defined by Ekwall in the Concise English Dictionary of English Place Names as an Old English name meaning Wynstan's Leah – a wood or clearing. Old English was the language spoken in England from roughly 500 to 1100. The Anglo-Saxons were a cultural group who inhabited England in the Early Middle Ages. They traced their origins to settlers who came to Britain from mainland Europe in the 5th century. Anglo-Saxon identity arose from interaction between incoming groups from several Germanic tribes, both amongst themselves and with indigenous Britons, such as the Brigantes.

Before the Norman Conquest in 1066, it is reported that Billinge and Winstanley were one manor, and probably formed one of the berewicks of Newton. In 1212 Roger de Winstanley held the Winstanley manor under the lord of Billinge. Probably around this time, Billinge and Winstanley were formed as two separate parts of the Barony of Newton-in-Makerfield. Winstanley became an independent manor with its own court. Subsequently, the Anglian settlement of Billinge was subdivided into two parts, Billinge Chapel End and Billinge Higher End.

Edmund Winstanley, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth, sold Winstanley Hall and Estate to James Banks in 1596, and they remained with the Banks family until 2000, when the hall was sold to Dorbcrest.

Figure 1 shows the outline of the medieval boundaries of Winstanley township including two detached parts of Winstanley in Billinge, one south of Newton Road in Billinge and the other in Birchley. The detached part of Winstanley south of Newton Road was the domain of Blackley Hurst Hall.

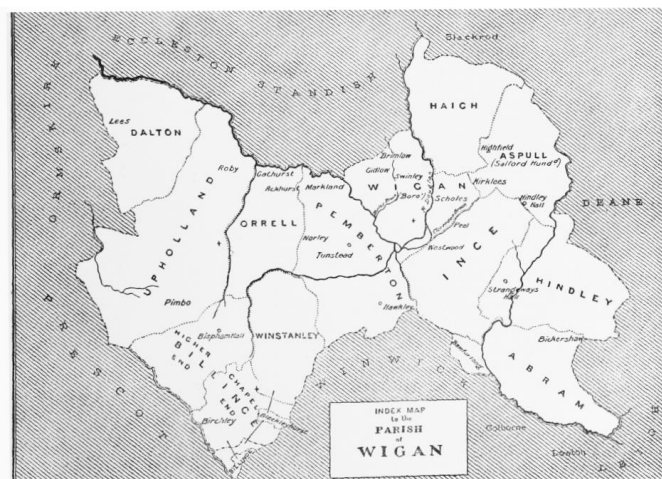


Fig. 1. 1911 map of the medieval townships in the Parish of Wigan.

The gentle eastern slopes of Billinge Hill are incised by several small tributary streams of the river Douglas, creating a well-drained and undulating landscape. Winstanley Park sits within this landscape; the maximum altitude of the park being about 330 feet at Camp Hill in the

south-west and the minimum about 160 feet at Pony Dick to the east. The line of the Tinker Hole Fault runs from southwest to northeast across the central part of the park with a throw of up to 355 feet to the southeast. To the east of the fault the coal measures are largely unobscured by drift deposits; whilst to the west of the fault there is superficial cover of glacial boulder clays, which underlies most of the northern half of the park, including the moated area and the Mossey Croft Wood area.

Figure 2 shows a recent satellite photo of Winstanley Park. The old moat is on the northside of the Moat House with gardens to the south. The walled gardens were constructed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A dark line crosses from southwest to northeast between Winstanley Hall and moat. The M6 is to the west. Lea Wood is the line of trees to the east of the hall and Pony Dick is on the east side. Winstanley Park occupies almost a third of the whole area of Winstanley Township.



Fig.2. Google Earth photo of Winstanley Park.

The moat comprises part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, along with a group of fishponds located about 600 feet to the northeast in Workshop Wood. The moated site includes a rectangular island measuring about 150 feet by 120 feet and is surrounded on three sides by a waterlogged moat up to 45 feet wide and 3 feet deep to the water level. The moat's southern arm is dry and has been partially infilled. There is an inlet channel at the moat's north-western corner and an outlet channel at the north-eastern corner.

Flanking the waterlogged moat is an outer bank up to 30 feet wide and 3 feet high. Access to the island is by a causeway on the western arm. Despite some disturbance to the

island by tree roots and partial cleaning and infilling of the moat, Winstanley moated survives well. Evidence of the original buildings will exist upon the island.

A walled garden was constructed to the south of the moat in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The garden is not shown on the estate plan of 1770 (Figure 3) and the earliest evidence for its existence is the estate plan of 1792. The west, north and east sides of the garden had high brick walls, but a ha-ha forms the southern boundary. An example of a ha-ha is shown in Figure 4. A possible precursor for the walled garden may have existed within the moated site, where cartographic evidence has suggested that a garden may have existed within the post-medieval period. Such a scenario would help to explain why the walled garden is in such proximity to the medieval moated site.



Fig. 3. Winstanley Estate Plan 1770.



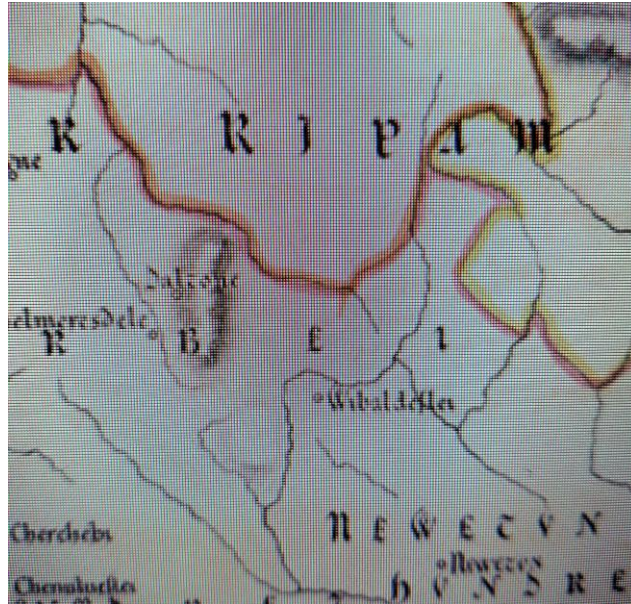
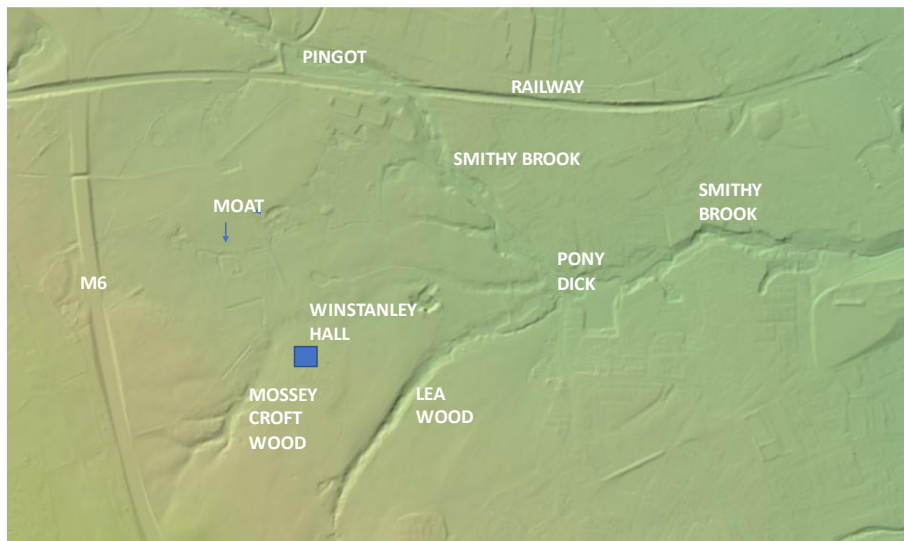


Fig. 6. Map of the Winstanley (Wibaldeslei) area in the 1086 Domesday Book.

I now introduce a recent LiDAR map of Winstanley Park. I will describe some prominent features and then examine old plans and maps to garnish as much information as possible about the moat and ancillary features, keeping in mind that construction of the moat and ancillary features predates the earliest map by hundreds of years. Figure 7 shows a LiDAR map of Winstanley Park and Figure 8 is a LiDAR map of the central area.

Fig. 7.



LIDAR MAP OF WINSTANLEY:1 (ArcGIS)



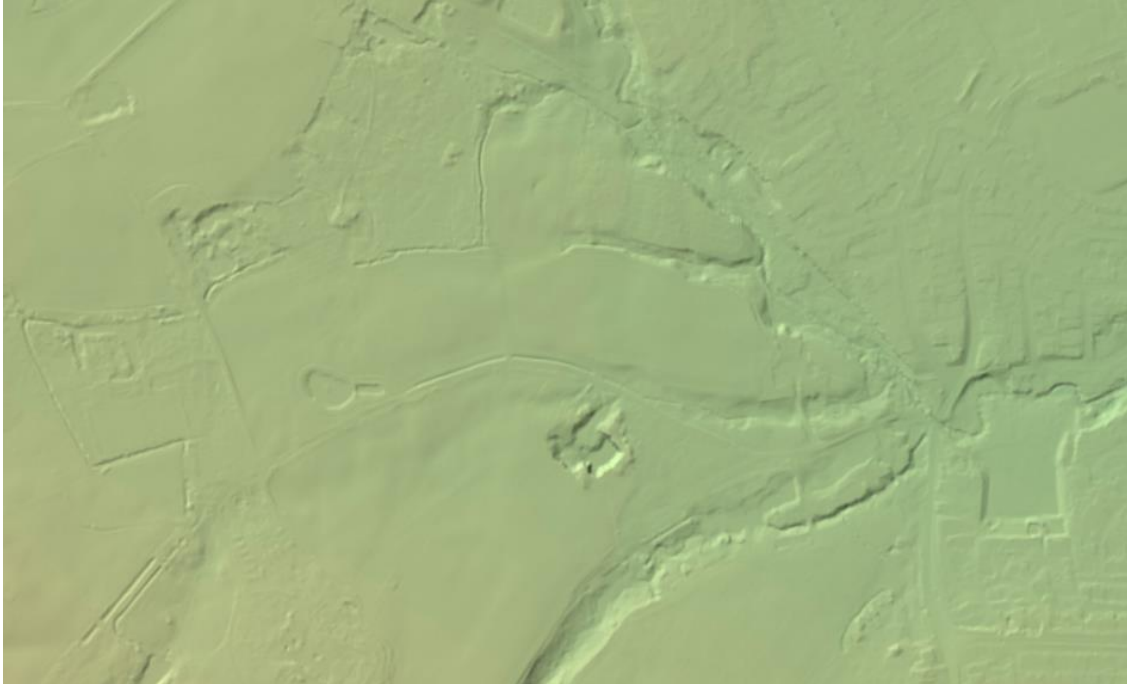


Fig. 8. LiDAR photo of Winstanley Park.

Key features of the LiDAR maps are as follows:

1. Several incised streams or headwaters: Smithy Brook, which flows east from Pony Dick into the River Douglas in Wigan, Lea Wood and in Mossey Croft Wood.
2. Pronounced ditches for the west, north and east arms of the moat and on the east part of the south side. There is no ditch along the west part of the south side of the moat. The land between these four sides, where the wooden manor house would have been located, appears elevated.
3. Two well-defined parallel and straight cuts or ditches from the northwest corner of Mossey Croft Wood leading to the southeast of the homestead area.
4. Two water bodies in Mossey Croft Wood with a cut or ditch from the northwest corner of the northern water body into the eastern cut or ditch.
5. A well-defined straight cut or ditch from the southeast to the southwest corner of the homestead area with a less pronounced cut or ditch from the southwest to northwest of the homestead.
6. A cut or ditch from the northwest corner of the homestead into the northwest corner of the moat itself.
7. A well-defined cut or ditch from the northeast corner of the moat eastward to the south side of Woodshop Wood and ponds, with a less pronounced cut or ditch continuing to the east and then north to a stream that flows into Smithy Brook.
8. A pronounced cut or ditch from the pond to the east of the moat that continues into an incised stream flowing into Smithy Brook at Pony Dick.
9. A stone quarry to the south of this stream (provided sandstone to build the hall).

10. Fishponds and a depression northeast of the moat (probably formed by extracting clay to make the bricks for the walled garden).
11. A depression northwest of the moat (Clarke's No. 7 pit c.1795).
12. Winstanley Hall shows little imprint.
- 13.

I now look at early plans and maps to investigate if the above LiDAR features can be further interpreted.

The 1770 map (Figure 3) shows two main roads or pathways to Winstanley Hall: one from the old road from Windy Arbour to Orrell and Upholland, before Winstanley Road and the M6 were built, running along the west side of Mossey Croft Wood; the other from Pony Dick along the side of Lea Wood. A building or buildings are shown where the Mossey Croft Road joins old Winstanley Road. Three water bodies are shown in Mossey Croft Wood. A three-sided moat is shown with a small pond within the east side of the moated mound. Salterly Fields are evident to the northeast of the moat. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Smithy Brook, which divided Winstanley from Orrell was known as Salters Brook.

The 1792 and 1820 estate plans show a four-sided moat and a garden to the south. The 1838 tithe plan shows a four-sided moat with a small entrance through the south side. Figure 9 shows the map of Winstanley Park that highlights the outcrop of the Orrell 5ft and 4ft coal seams. The post-1770 road from Pony Dick to the hall joins the road from the old Winstanley Road past the north side of Mossey Croft Wood and this continues northward past the southeast corner of the moat gardens to join the more northerly road from the old Winstanley Road that continues eastward to Pemberton across the Pingot.



Fig. 9. Winstanley Estate map c.1820.

The 1849 OS map (Figure 10) shows the following points of interest:

1. A small lodge at the junction of a line from Mossey Croft Wood to the old Winstanley Road. (In 1985 Donald Anderson said that "This was originally the entrance into the Park off the ancient highway before Winstanley Road was constructed".
2. Complex pathways in Mossey Croft Wood, a conservatory, two water bodies and three fountains around Winstanley Hall.
3. Roads to Winstanley Hall from the Wigan Lodge south of Pony Dick, Billinge Lodge off to the south of the map and the lodge in 1 above converging to the east of Camp Hill and then splitting to the front and rear of the hall, with a road from the hall to Mossey Croft Wood.
4. A three-sided moat with a separate section of moat on the south side.
5. Buildings and a garden to the south of the moat.
6. A pathway from Mossey Croft Wood to the southeastern corner of the moated homestead and extending along the eastern side of the walled garden.
7. The moat is not located close to any other significant surface waters, such as Smithy Brook or the stream through Lea Wood.
8. The road to Winstanley Hall from Pony Dick to the hall is no longer shown. A new road to the hall from Pony Dick to the north of Delph Plantation is shown.

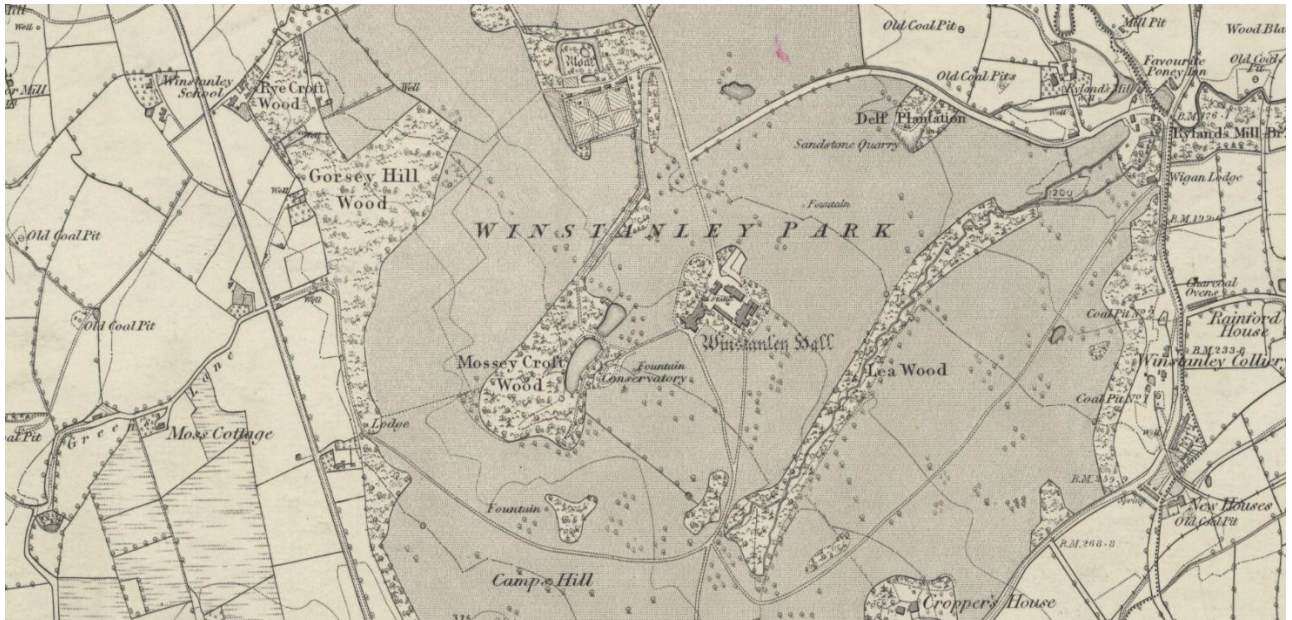


Fig. 10. 1849 OS map of Winstanley Park.

On the 1894 OS map (not shown) sluices are indicated at the northern end of both water bodies in Mossey Croft Wood.

The 1929 OS map (Figure 11) more clearly shows the contours of the land. The elevation generally decreases from about 350 feet west of Mossey Croft Wood to about 250 feet at the moat. The moat is located at the foot of the slope where the land flattens out. The elevation of the north water body in Mossey Croft Wood is lower than the south water body. The 275 feet contour northwest of the north water body shows a W configuration, indicating two cuts either side of a raised higher platform. The 300 ft contour of the west of Mossey Croft Wood does not show such configuration. Along the southern side of the gardens and the northwest corner of the moat the contours indicate cuts. A stream flows into the northwest corner of the moat and a stream at slightly lower elevation flows eastward out of the northeastern corner of the moat.

The moat is not located close to any other significant surface flow of water, such as Smithy Brook or the stream through Lea Wood.

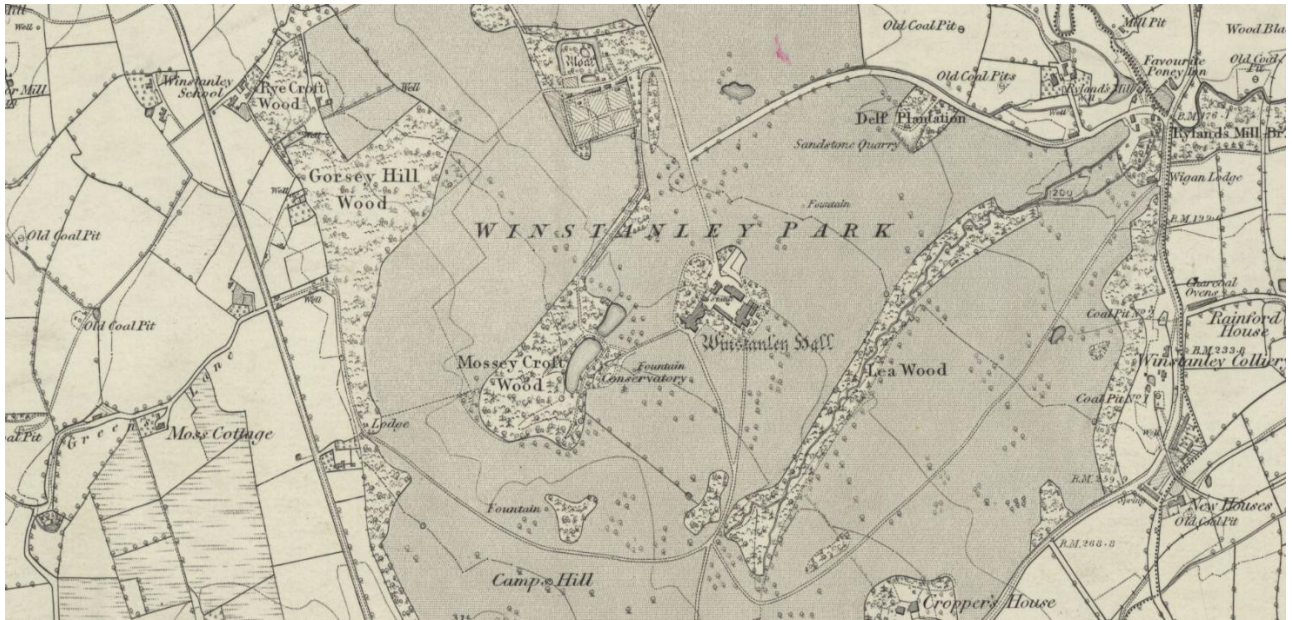


Fig. 11. 1929 OS map of Winstanley Park.

#### MY INTERPRETATION

1. More than a thousand years ago the Winstanley family cleared woodland and built a moated homestead northwest of today's Winstanley Hall.
2. A wooden building in the moated site served as a prestigious home and manor house.
3. The wooden manor house could have been rebuilt over hundreds of years before being abandoned, probably in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
4. The location of the homestead met the requirements for fairly flat land, a sheltered position, water supply, drainage, fertile soil, protection and security, access to wood, clay and possibly coal and connection to a road.
5. The homestead was built by the side of an old saltway connecting the old Winstanley Road to Lamberhead Green through Salterly Fields and across Salters Brook in the Pingot.
6. It is not possible to determine if the saltway existed before the homestead was built, or whether the saltway was built at the same time as the homestead.
7. The saltway provided the main entrance to the homestead.
8. To the northwest of Mossey Croft Wood the saltway was on a raised bed flanked on both sides by ditches.
9. The ponds in Mossey Croft Wood, either natural or engineered by the Winstanleys, were fed by small streams and perhaps by a spring(s). Water from the higher southern pond probably flowed into the lower pond. Water from the ponds was channeled northwest to flow into one or both ditches either side of the saltway.

10. Water flowed along these ditches to the southeast corner of the homestead site, south of the moat. The saltway continued to the north along the east side of the homestead.
11. A ditch was built along the south and west sides of the homestead to the northwest corner of the moat to channel water into the moat. The moat was kept full of water, but to maintain clear water and prevent flooding of the manor house a drainage outlet was made from the northeast corner of the moat to flow northeast along the south side of Workshop Wood and possibly further east and then to the north to discharge into a stream that flows into Smithy Brook in the Summersales.
12. Abundant clay was dug to create channels for water flow. Clay was used to create embankments, raised pathways/roads, the mound within the moat and to line the moat itself. The fishponds within Workshop Wood were probably created in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century as a result of mining clay to make bricks for the high wall around the walled garden.
13. The pond to the east of the moat (locally called the fishpond) was probably of natural origin or associated with construction of the moated homestead. Post-1770 a stream was enlarged or constructed from the pond to provide an additional source of water for the mill at Pony Dick.
14. The fact that the ditch to the south of the moat was considerable distance from the moat, and the area between the moat and the ditch was post-1770 made into a garden, lead me to speculate that this area was probably intensely farmed when the manor home was occupied.

## **2.ii. Morley's Hall moated site at Astley.**

The site includes a two-storey brick farmhouse rebuilt in 1804, but incorporating 16th and 17th century elements, surrounded by its original medieval moat. A house has stood on the site since the early 14th century. The farmhouse is Grade II\* listed with the moat and the land under the house forming the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The spring-fed moat is completely water-filled and is between 12 and 15 metres wide and 3 metres deep. There is an inlet at the northeastern corner and an outlet at the southeastern corner where it widens to form a feature known as a 'Cheshire bulge', traditionally considered to be a watering place for cattle. The site includes a slightly raised sub-rectangular island measuring 46m by 34m upon which the early 19th century Morley's Hall stands. A late medieval brick and sandstone bridge that replaced an earlier timber drawbridge provides access to the island on which the house stands. The site is in good condition and is a good example of a medieval moated site. There is also a large archaeological resource with surviving evidence of earlier buildings and organic material in the waterlogged moat.

The place-name Morley first occurs in the early thirteenth century when it was an area of pasture land granted to Cockersand Abbey. A family taking the name of Morley and residing there can be traced back certainly to 1303. By 1431, the Leyland family had taken possession of the hall. In 1540 John Leland, the famous antiquary, visited the hall as part of his "Itinerary" of

England. He described it as being built largely of timber, on a stone foundation, and surrounded by a moat. Turfs and peat from the nearby Chat Moss were used as fuel.

Edward Tyldesley inherited the Hall when Thomas Leyland died in 1564. The Tyldesleys were prominent Catholics, despite the penalties levied against 'Papists'. When Edward died in 1587, it was said that "his children and familie are verie greatlie corrupted and fewe or none of them came to church."

The Hall became a secret rendezvous for Catholic services. In 1641 a priest by the name of Edward Ambrose Barlow was arrested during one of these secret services. One story has it that the vicar of Leigh marched his congregation out to apprehend Barlow. Barlow was tried and executed but his name lives on as he was recently canonised as St. Ambrose Barlow.

Sir Thomas Tyldesley was the most famous of the line. Taking the King's part at the outbreak of the Civil War, he raised troops at his own expense and fought in many battles. Exiled in 1649, he returned in 1651 in a new rebellion, but he was killed and his troops defeated in the Battle of Wigan Lane, where a monument commemorates the event.

The later Tyldesleys did not reside regularly at Morleys. They became increasingly impoverished — their involvement in the unsuccessful Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1745 and the fines levied against Catholics both played a part - and in 1755 they sold Morleys to the Leghs of Chorley. They in turn passed one half to Josiah Wilkinson, then to his son John Wilkinson Wilkinsons. The other half passed to Thomas Lyon of Warrington.

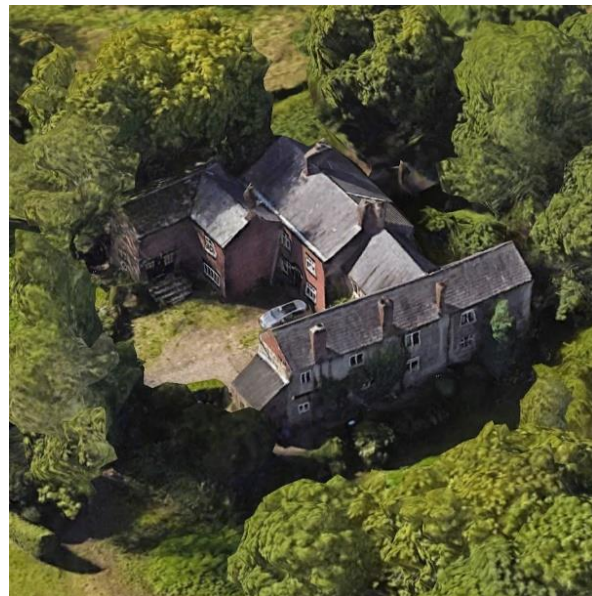


Fig. 12. Google Earth photo of Morley's Hall (Grade II\*) and Moat, Astley.



Fig. 13. Morley's Hall and Moat at Astley.

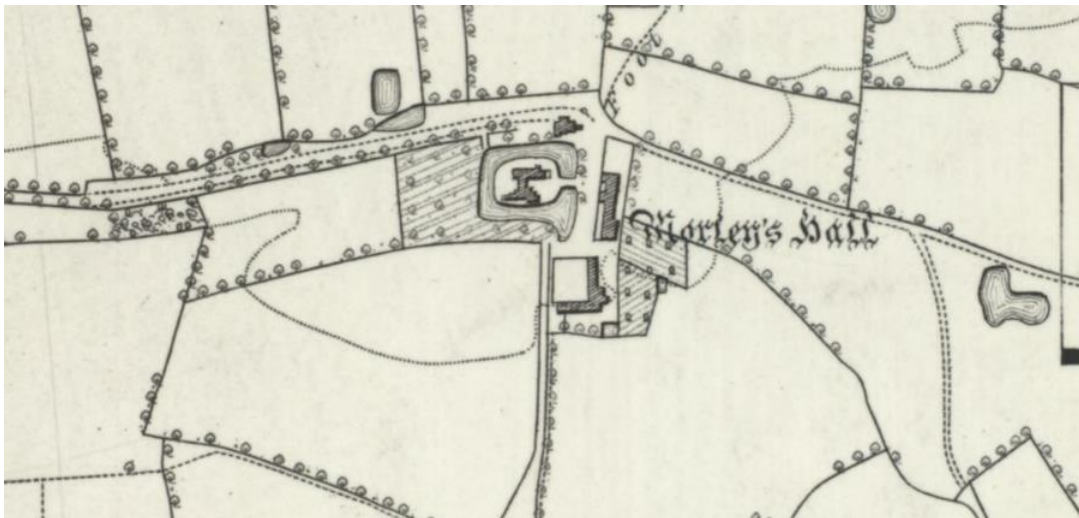


Fig. 14. 1849 OS map of Morley's Hall and Moat at Astley.

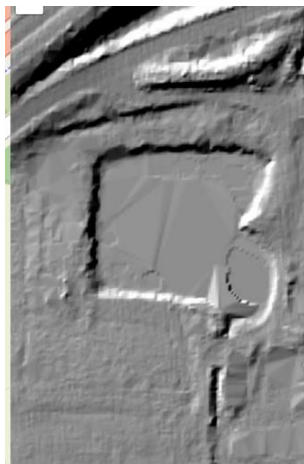


Fig. 15. LiDAR photo of Morley's Hall moated site, Astley.



### 2.iii. New Hall moated site at Tyldesley.

Wigan Council states that the hall and moat were constructed in 1692 by the Launder family; however older timbers found in the hall suggest that the house and moat could have medieval origins. There is a report that New Hall was in existence before 1422 when it belonged to Thomas Tyldesley. The hall and its 8.1 hectares (20 acres) acres of land was the subject of a feud between the Tyldesleys and the Hultons of Hulton Park which ended in 1422 when Roger Hulton gave up any title he had to Hugh Tyldesley. The house has since undergone major alteration work and is excluded from the scheduling. The water-filled moat forms a complete circuit, measuring between 20 and 30 metres wide, and is in good condition. Access onto the island is gained by a brick causeway on the south-east side. It is likely that archaeological remains survive on the site. The moat is widest at the south west corner where the water soaks away to join a stream. The moat was revetted on the south side but the stonework is destroyed and is bridged on the same side by a modern stone bridge which replaced a timber structure. The rectangular island, measuring 60 metres by 40 metres, encloses an area of 0.25 hectares (0.62 acres) and is 0.4 metres above the surrounding land. A ruined post-medieval farmhouse occupied a third of the island in 1983. The present modern buildings are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is part of the schedule.

Its occupant in 1692 was Henry Marsh who was elected overseer of the poor for Tyldesley lower side. It was described as a mansion house in 1716 when it was leased to a widow named Heyes. By 1742 Thomas Smith, a farmer, was tenant. In 1838 the property and its 23 Cheshire acres of land were owned by Lord Francis Edgerton who leased it to John Lawton. The tenant from 1853 to 1872 was Richard Grundy and it acquired the nickname, *Dicky Beefs*.



Fig. 16. New Hall and Moat at Tyldesley-with-Shakerley.



Fig. 17. Google Earth photo of New Hall and Moat at Tyldesley-with-Shakerley.

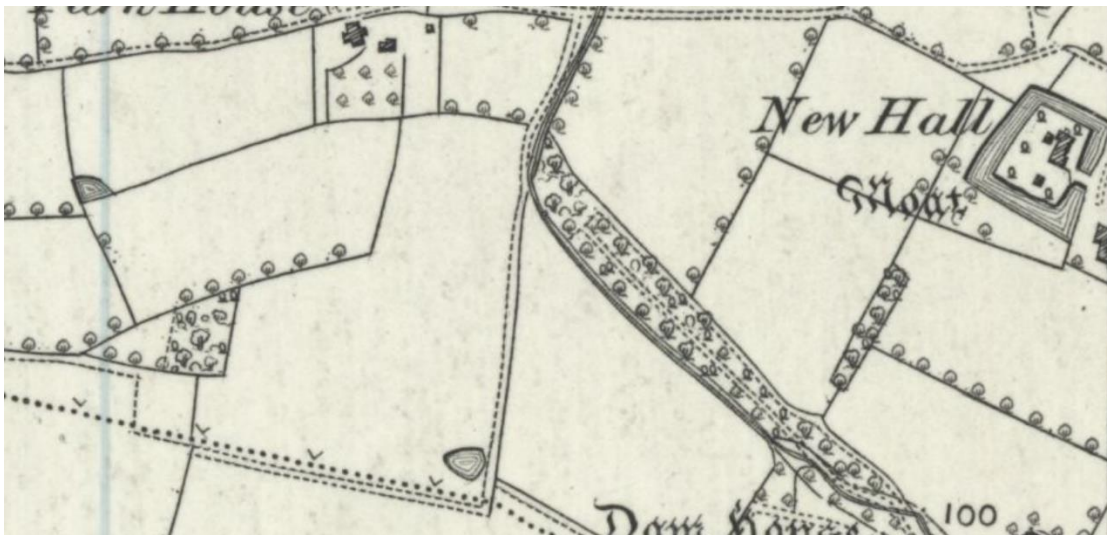


Fig. 18. 1849 OS map of New Hall and Moat at Tyldesley-with-Shakerley.

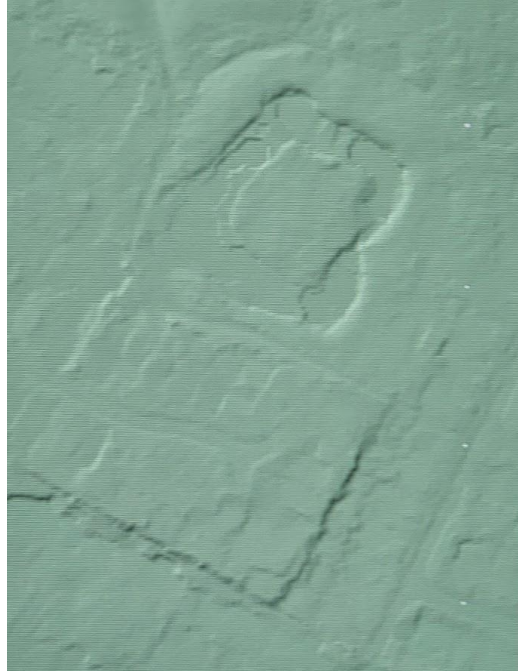


Fig. 19. LiDAR photo of New Hall moated site at Tyldesley-with-Shakerley.

#### **2.iv. Gidlow Hall moated site at Aspull.**

Gidlow Hall (Grade II) is on the site of a medieval house surrounded by a moat. The current house bears the date of 1574 and was largely rebuilt in 1840, but documentary evidence suggests the existence of an earlier house. The great hall was the residence of the Gidlow (Gudelow) family, whose members included Robert de Gidlow, freeholder of Aspull in 1291. Parts of the 16<sup>th</sup> century hall include masonry on the south front and east wall, a fireplace and a stair-tower at the rear.

The water-filled moat surrounding the island is 9m wide on average and appears to be at least 1.5m deep with little sign of silting. The moat is sub- rectangular in shape and has maximum dimensions of 105m northwest to southeast and 75m northeast to southwest. A bridge allows access to the enclosed island on the south side. This is 5m wide, built in a shallow arch of stone and has a parapet constructed of large dressed single stones tied together with iron clamps set in lead. The bridge is an original construction of the late 16th century and is part of the scheduled monument. Its width and construction could support carts and carriages. The platform thrown up by the excavation of the moat is raised 0.5m above the surrounding ground level. This is divided into two areas by a hedge on a slight bank. Otherwise, there is no evidence of landscaping in the interior.



Fig. 20. Gidlow Hall at Aspull.



Fig.21. Gidlow Hall (Grade II) at Aspull.



Fig. 22. Google Earth photo of Gidlow Hall and Moat at Aspull.



Fig. 23. 1849 OS map of Gidlow Hall and Moat at Aspull.

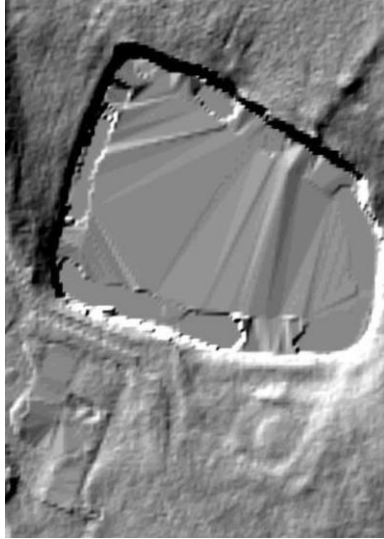


Fig. 24. LiDAR photo of Gidlow Hall moated site at Aspull

### **2.v. The Moat House moated site at Haigh.**

This site consists of the moat of a now lost medieval manor house, perhaps the original Haigh Hall. The moat is completely dry and has been incorporated into the garden of the 19th century Moat House. Although no documentary evidence survives, the house probably stands on the site of the medieval house on the island in the centre of the moat. The house is Grade II listed but excluded from the schedule, although the ground beneath is included. The house was built c.1840 by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres for one of the land agents of his Haigh Estate. The moat is square in plan and with each side being 50 metres long. The sides are stone lined and on the north side the remains of a stone bridge survive beneath an outbuilding, which was probably the original approach to the medieval house.

The moat is square with each side measuring 50m on the outside. The sides are stone lined to a depth of 0.75m and on average the moat is 1.5m deep and 8m wide. Material thrown up by the excavation of the moat appears to have been placed to the south to build up the side of the watercourse into a shallow dam. On the southern corner of the east side there is a causeway entrance to take service traffic. This is not original. On the north side, almost in the centre, there are the remains of a stone bridge beneath the outbuilding which lies over the moat. This may represent the original approach to the island. The house and its outbuildings are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.



Fig. 25. Moat House (Grade II) at Haigh.



Fig. 26. Google Earth photo of Haigh Moat House and Haighlands at Haigh.



Fig. 27. 1849 OS map of Moat House (Grade II) and Haighlands (Grade II) at Haigh.

Haighlands, also a Grade II listed building, but not part of the ancient monument, is just to the east of the moated site. It is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century home with earlier datestone inscribed: "R E/1720". It is believed to have been a dower house. The bow-shaped incision to the northwest corner of Haighlands could be a moat. The pond shown on the map to the southeast of the home was listed as a curling pond on early maps.



Fig. 28. Photo of Haighlands at Haigh.





Fig. 29. LiDAR photo of moated site and Haighands at Haigh.

## **2.vi. Arley Hall moated site at Arley.**

The moated site at Arley Hall is well preserved, even with the construction of an 18th century gothic manor on the island. The silts in the bed of the moat will preserve important organic remains of the occupation of the site. The garden and ground beneath the house will have evidence of the medieval hall which originally stood on this island.

The moat is nearly circular and surrounds a later house with a small garden. The house bears a datestone 1327, but this could be a fiction of the 18th century when the present house was remodelled into a gothic style country house. The platform would originally have been the site of a medieval hall building. An iron bridge connects the house to the opposite bank of the moat on the west side. The moat is waterfilled and the banks are revetted with dry stone, except on the north side where 15m of the outer bank has been rebuilt using mortared stone. The bank has been raised at this point by 0.75m to support the golf tee behind. The moat is 20m wide and about 1.5m deep in the centre. The banks have been built out into the moat at the point where the bridge crosses to the island. The house is partly cellared but the garden is a sloping lawn, showing that the original platform was formed by putting the spoil from the moat excavation into the middle to make a raised island. The moat is currently fed from the canal which passes the site on the east side. The outflow is in a modern culvert on the north side and any trace of the original water management system has been lost. The surrounding land forms a golf course created in 1898 which has obscured the remains of the original farming landscape. The moat and the house garden are included in the scheduling. The house and the iron bridge are excluded, although the ground beneath them is included.

First mention of an estate at Arley seems to come from the 12th century when it was reported that King Henry I confiscated it (later to be returned by King John). The earliest reference to its occupancy comes for the 13th century when the le Walsh family are mentioned

in local charters. As early as 1190 the surrounding manors of Haigh and Blackrod were apparently in the hands of the le Norreys family and it is possible that Emma, sister of Hugh le Norreys, held Arley in 1290. However, when William le Walsh died in 1393, deeds mention that he held land at Arley, renting it for one penny or a pair of gloves from William le Bradshagh, who by then was lord of the manor (William's predecessor, William Bradshaigh of the Mab's Cross Legend, had married Mabel Norris sometime in the late 13th century).

From the early 15th century to the late 16th century a branch of the Standish family was in residence, possibly the same 'Arley' branch who founded the Chantry of the Holy Cross in Standish Parish Church. In 1442 James Standish of Arley was charged with 'waylaying certain persons in order to kill them'. His brother Oliver and others were also implicated.

In the 17th century details are less certain, but by the middle of the 18th century we know that the Chisenhale family had been established there. The Rev. John Chisenhale owned coal mines in the area and it was he who was responsible, in 1767, for rebuilding the hall. He died at the Hall in 1782, followed by Daniel, his younger brother, in 1798. This left the estate in the hands of the reverend's daughters, Ann and Hannah. Ann was already married to a John C. Johnson of Liverpool who later took the Hall as his seat. They had two sons, John and William, who assumed the Chisenhale name. John later became Deputy-Lieutenant for the county. In 1800, while cleaning out the moat, their father is reported to have found a quantity of medieval silver possibly dated to Henry II, which supposedly ended up in the British Museum. Three candlesticks from the collection in fact were put on view at a pewter exhibition held at Lincoln's Inn, London in 1904 and 1908. The whereabouts of these items are now unknown.

In 1865 James Gidlow, a local mill owner, bought the Hall for £13,000, with the intention of exploiting the coal in the area. When he died, the estate went to a Colonel Fell, J.P. of Bolton. It was at this time (1898) that the grounds were converted into the golf course with the Hall becoming the clubhouse and headquarters.



Figs. 30 and 31. Photos of Arley Hall and Moat at Blackrod.



Fig. 32. 1849 OS map of Arley Hall and Moat at Blackrod.

### 3. EXISTING MOATED SITES THAT ARE NOT SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS



Fig. 33. Google Earth photo of Blackley Hurst Hall at Billinge.



Fig. 34. Photo of Blackley Hurst Hall (stucco) in 1980 (Kristin Stock and The Makerfield Rambler).



Fig. 35. 1849 OS map of Blackley Hurst Hall at Billinge.

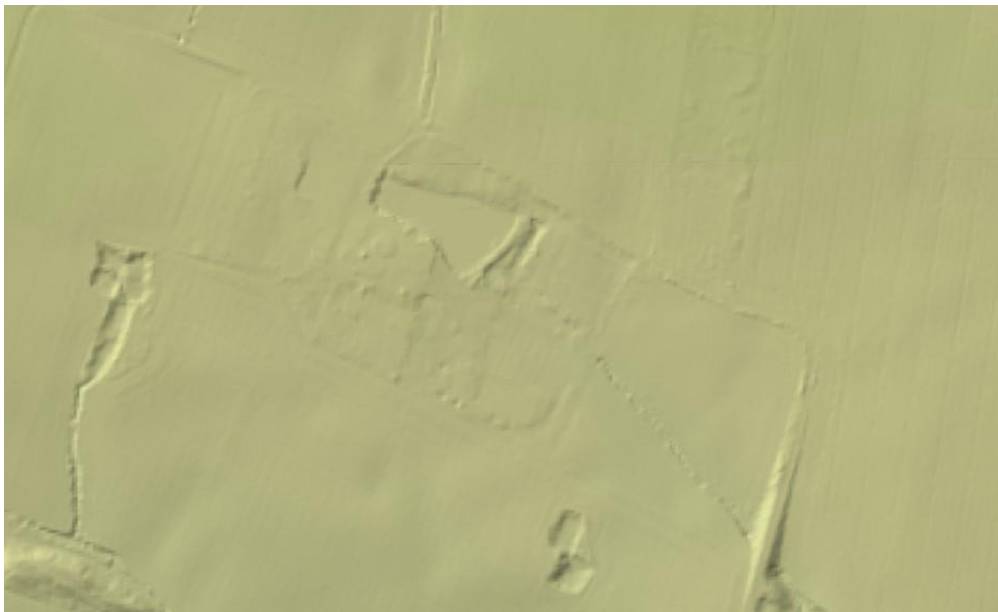


Fig. 36. LiDAR photo of Blackley Hurst Hall moated site at Billinge.

The term “Blakeleiebroc” occurs in a description of lands given by Adam de Billinge in 1212. The “..hurst” suffix may originally have denoted a wooded hillock or copse (The Makerfield Rambler). The stone Blackley Hurst Hall was probably built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, or earlier, after abandonment of the old wooden moated house in

Winstanley Park. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century the most senior members of the Winstanley family moved to Wales, where they were successful in the woolen industry before returning to Winstanley to build Winstanley Hall in Winstanley Park c.1560. Other senior members of the family lived in Blackley Hurst Hall, which was in a detached part of Winstanley in Billing. The faint line surrounding the site evident in Figure 36 could be the original moat.

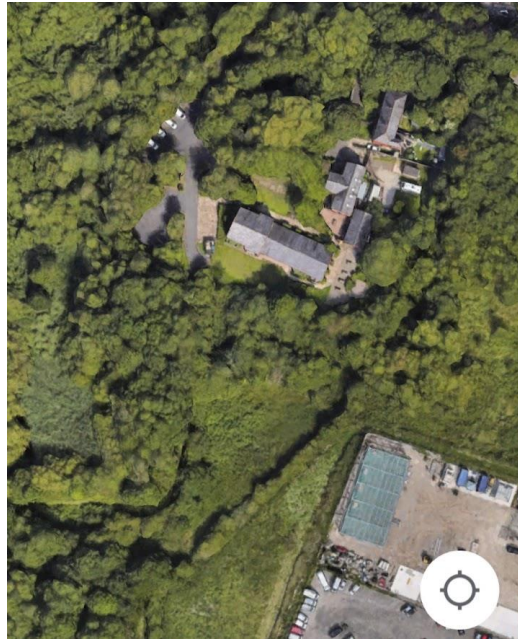


Fig. 37. Google Earth photo of Hopecarr moated site at Bedford.



Fig. 38. 1849 OS map of Hopecarr Hall and Moat at Bedford.



Fig. 39. Google Earth photo of Bradshaw Hall and Moat at Aspull.



Fig. 40. 1849 OS map of Bradshaw Hall and Moat at Aspull.

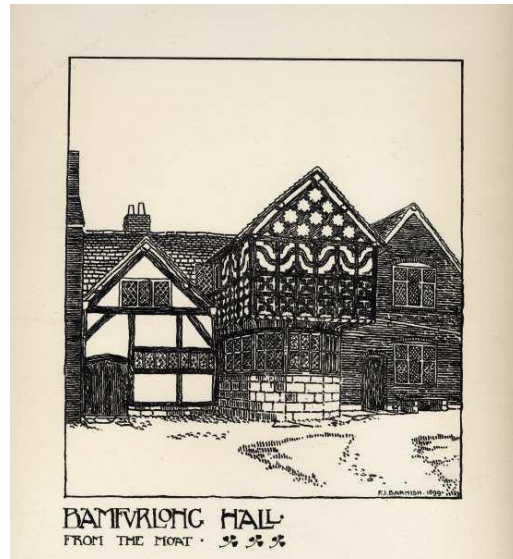


Fig. 41. Bamfurlong Hall (demolished 1953) and Moat at Abram.



Fig. 42. 1849 OS map of Bamfurlong Hall and Moat at Abram.



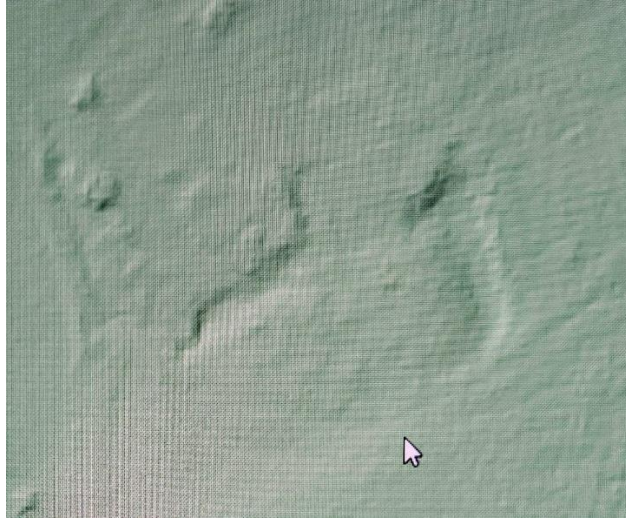


Fig. 43. LiDAR photo of Bamfurlong Hall moated site at Abram.

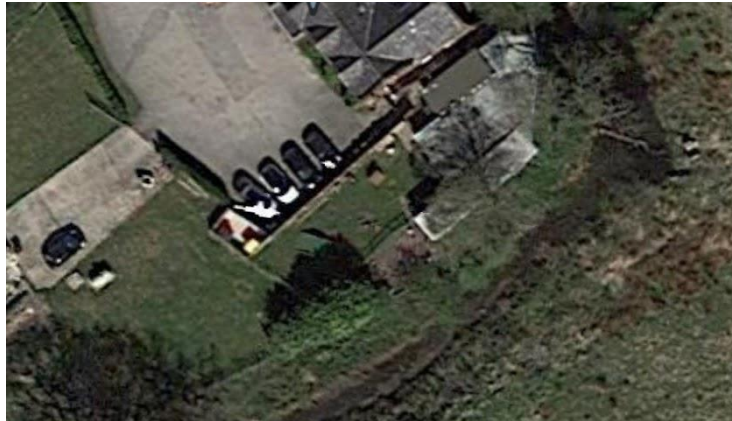


Fig. 44. Google Earth photo of Langtree Hall moated site at Standish-with-Langtree.

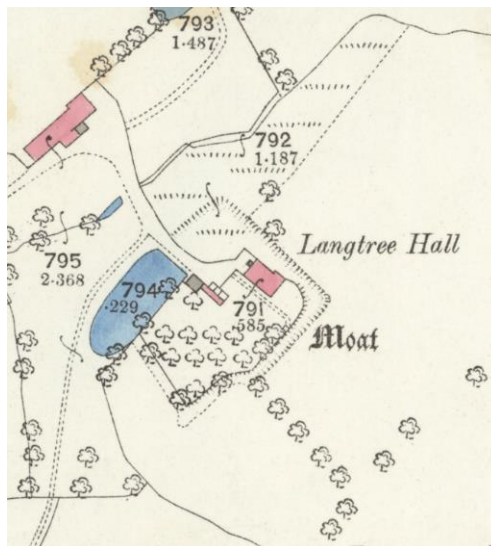


Fig. 45. 1894 OS map of Langtree Hall and Moat at Standish-with-Langtree.



Fig. 46. Langtree Hall and Moat at Standish-with-Langtree, 1763 Standish Estate map (Jim Meehan).



Fig. 47. LiDAR map of moated site at Langtree Hall at Standish-with-Langtree.



Fig. 48. Peel Hall (Grade II) at Ince.



Fig. 49. 1849 OS map of Peel Hall and Moat at Ince-in-Makerfield.

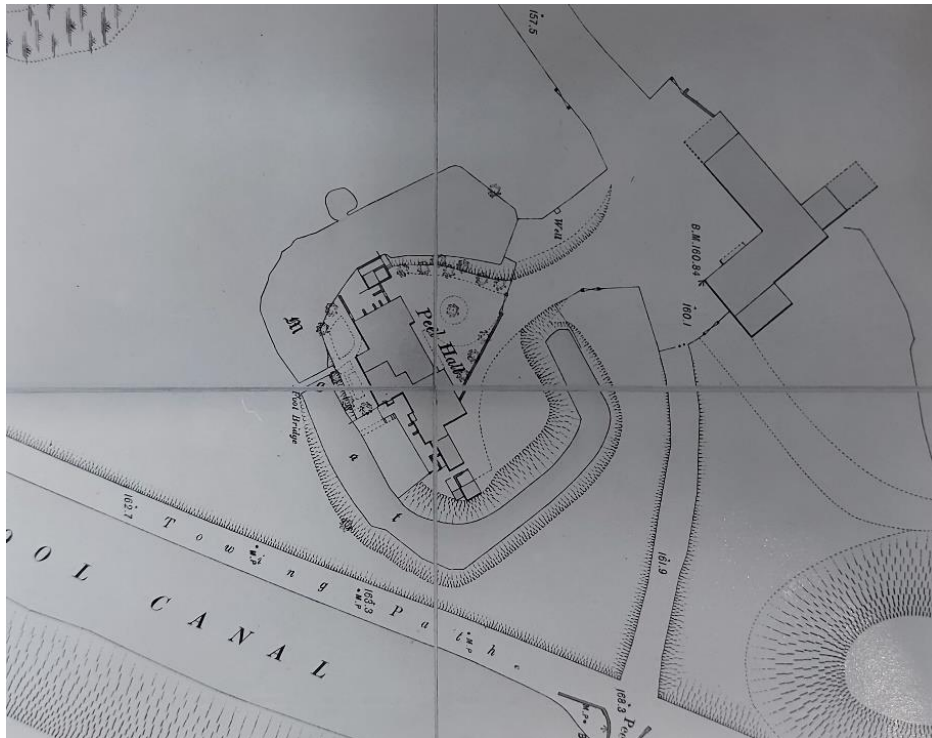


Fig. 50. Early map (undated) of Peel Hall and Moat (Jim Meehan).

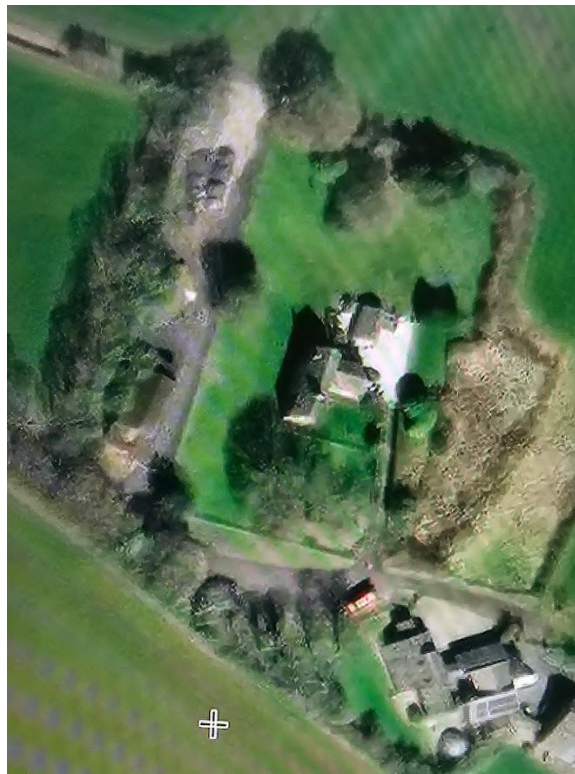


Fig. 51. Google Earth photo of Lightshaw Hall moated site at Golborne.



Fig. 52. Lightshaw Hall (Grade II\*) at Golborne.



BYROM HALL Slag Lane Lowton

Photograph © Lowton Websites

Fig. 53. Byrom Hall at Lowton.



Fig. 54. 1849 OS map of Lightshaw Hall, Byrom Hall, Mossley Hall and their Moats at Golborne and Lowton.



Fig. 55. Google Earth photo of site of Brick House and Moat at Bedford.



Fig. 56. 1849 OS map of Brick House and Moat at Bedford.

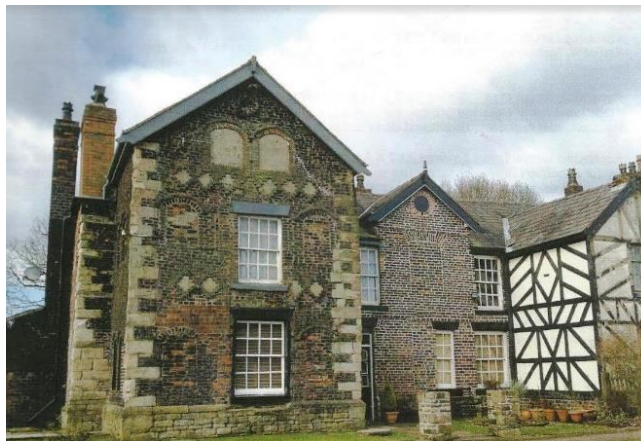


Fig. 57. Kirkless Hall (Grade II\*) at Aspull.



Fig. 58. 1849 OS map of Kirkless Hall and Moat at Aspull.

Kirkless Hall has a date stone, probably not original, of 1663. The “deep” moat “of great antiquity” was lost by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1865 the hall served as headquarters of the Wigan Coal and Iron Company. Soon after, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres gained controlling interest of the company, which employed more than 9,000 colliers.

**4. MOATED SITES WITH GOOD HISTORICAL EVIDENCE, BUT WHICH HAVE BEEN LARGELY DESTROYED.**



Fig. 59. 1849 OS map of Tunsted House and Moat at Pemberton.





Fig. 60. 1849 OS map of Hawkley Hall moated site at Pemberton.



Fig.61. LiDAR photo of Hawkley Hall moated site (home of the Molyneux family and demolished 1971) at Pemberton.



Fig. 62. 1849 OS map of Bickershaw Hall and Moat at Bickershaw.



Fig. 63. 1849 OS map of Worsley Hall and Moat at Permberton.

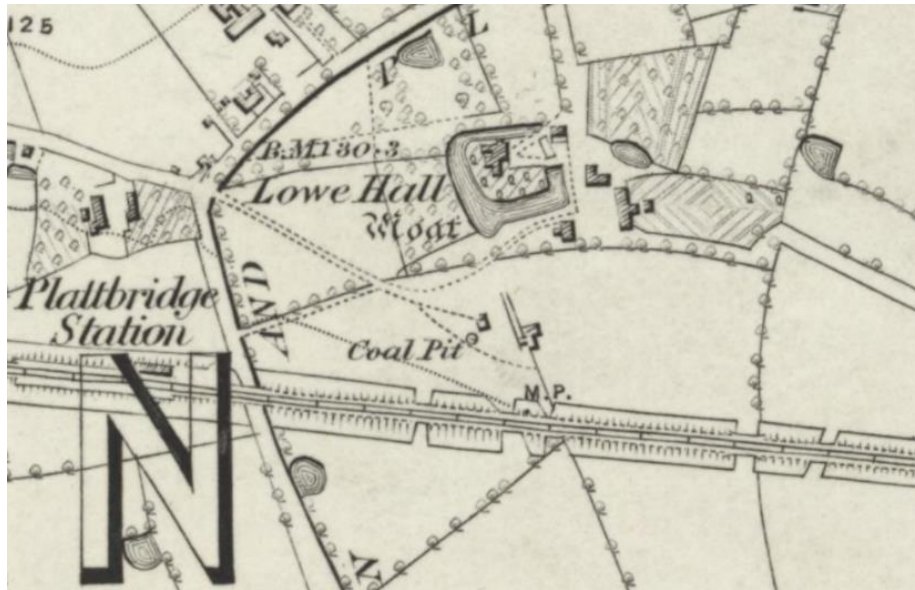


Fig. 64. 1849 OS map of Lowe Hall and Moat at Hindley.

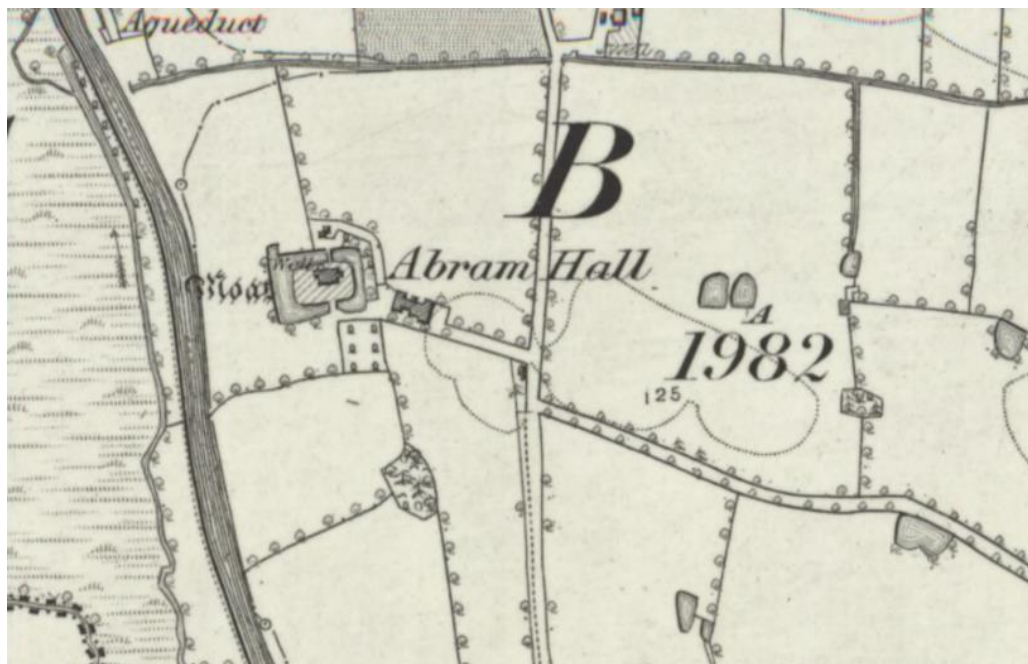


Fig. 65. 1849 OS map of Abram Hall and Moat at Abram.



Fig. 66. 1849 OS map of Bolton House and Moat at Abram.



Fig. 67. 1849 OS map of Lower Highfield Moat at Aspull.

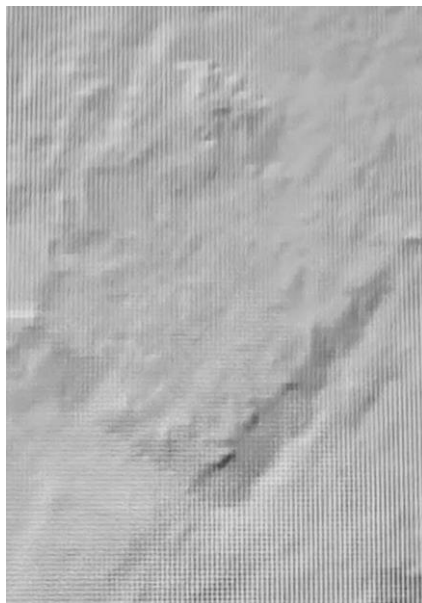


Fig. 68. LiDAR photo of Lower Highfield Moat at Aspull.



Fig. 69. 1849 OS map of Brynn Hall and Moat at Ashton-in-Makerfield.

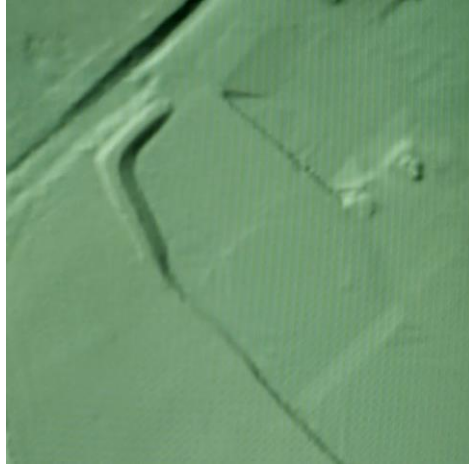


Fig. 70. LiDAR photo of Brynn Hall moated site at Ashton-in-Makerfield.



Fig. 71. 1849 OS map of Old Brynn Moat at Ashton-in-Makerfield.

The only description available of Olde Brynne is in volume 2 of "Traditions of Lancashire" written by the Wigan born historian John Roby in 1820, listed under the chapter of "Dead Man's Hand". This Description is based on a manuscript collected by a Mr. Barrett, a celebrated Manchester Antiquarian of 1780.

*"Brynne Hall is an ancient seat of the Gerards and has been a good house, but it is now almost in ruins the venerable ivy rebelling without control on its mouldings walls. Within is a spacious courtyard, the approach to which is by means of a bridge over the moat which surrounds this fabric. The gatehouse is secured by very strong and large doors. Within the court*

*is what has been a rich porch. The entrance into a spacious room called the Hall, on the Chimney Piece of which are the Arms of England in the reign of James I. Across one side of the Hall runs a railed gallery, on which persons might stand to see any entertainment below. This gallery is supported by double pillars in the front of pilasters, and forming arches bewixt each other under which persons may pass from one room to another. On these carved pillars and arches is abundance of rich carved work, but rotten with age and moisture... A popish priest resided here and above stairs is a Romish Chapel, still used by the neighbours. Here is kept in a white silkbag what they call Father Arrowsmiths Hand, who was put to death at Lancaster in the reign of William III as they same, for his religion."*

The site is thought to date from the 14th century and the article goes on to say that until quite recently some stonework and rubble from the outer walls and base could still be seen... *The central mound and moat could be clearly seen until Mr Baldwin of Landgate Farm, the landowner, reclaimed the site. He removed a quantity of stone blocks and rubble but found little of value...* The whole area around the site is of special archaeological importance as the Roman Road runs quite close by and just to the south is the site of a possible pre-historic burial mound called Toot Hill.



Fig. 72. 1849 OS map of Urmston's in the Meadows and Moat at Pennington.



Fig. 73. 1849 OS map of New Hall and Moat at Ince-in-Makerfield.



Fig. 74. Artist's impression of Standish Hall, 1574, at Standish-with-Langtree (commissioned by Lawrence Hill (Jim Meehan)).



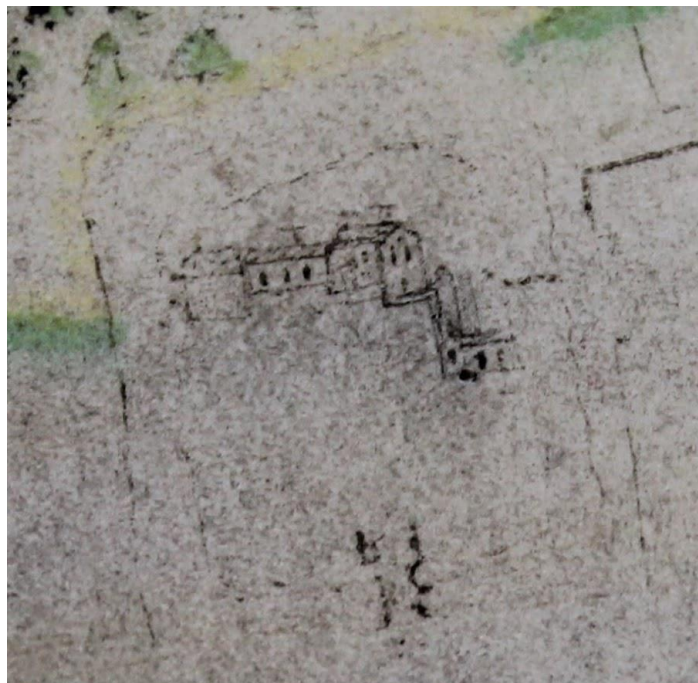


Fig. 75. 1673 Estate map of Standish Hall and Moat (filled 1780) at Standish-with-Langtree (Jim Meehan).

## APPENDIX 1

### MOATED SITES IN GREATER MANCHESTER (Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit) NOTED IN THIS PAPER

**1** MOSSLEY HALL, Lowton SJ 628 990 **2** Byrom Hall, Lowton SJ 624 989 **3** LIGHTSHAW HALL, Golborne SJ 615 996 **4** OLD BRYN, Ashton-in-Makerfield SD 578 015 **5** BRYN HALL, Ashton-in-Makerfield SD 588 017 **6** WINSTANLEY MOAT, Winstanley SD 543 035 **7** TUNSTED HOUSE, Pemberton SD 556 047 **8** HALL WORSLEY, Pemberton SD 563 050 **9** Hawkley Hall, Pemberton SD 575 031 **10** WIGAN HALL/RECTORY, Wigan SD 579 059 **11** PEEL HALL, Ince-in-Makerfield SD 598 057 **12** NEW HALL, Ince-in-Makerfield SD 604 053 **13** Hall of Ince, Ince-in-Makerfield SD 600 058 **14** BAMFURLONG HALL, Abram SD 601 016 **15** ABRAM HALL, Abram SD 606 014 **16** BOLTON HOUSE, Abram SD 626 013 **17** BICKERSHAW HALL, Abram SD 627 019 **18** PL ATT BRIDGE MOAT, Hindley SD 613 029 **19** LOWE HALL, Hindley SD 607 033 **20** KIRKLESS HALL, Aspull SD 603 064 **21** GIDLOW HALL, Aspull SD 625 071 **22** LOWER HIGHFIELD/MANOR HOUSE, Aspull SD 607 080 **23** Bradshaw Hall, Aspull SD 618 069 **24** MOAT/DAM HOUSE, Haigh SD 600 091 **25** LANGTREE HALL, Standish with Langtree SD56MII **26** Langtree Hall West, Standish with Langtree SD 552 121 **27** Standish Hall, Standish with Langtree SD 557 089 **28** ARLEY HALL, Blackrod SD 589 107 **34** URMSTON I1 TH' MEADOWS, Pennington SJ 637 988 **35** HOPECARR HALL, Bedford SJ 665 987 **36** BRICK HOUSE, Bedford SJ 670 991 **37** MORLEY'S HALL, Astley SJ 690 993 **38** NEW HALL, Tyldesley with Shakerley SO 699 011.

## APPENDIX 2

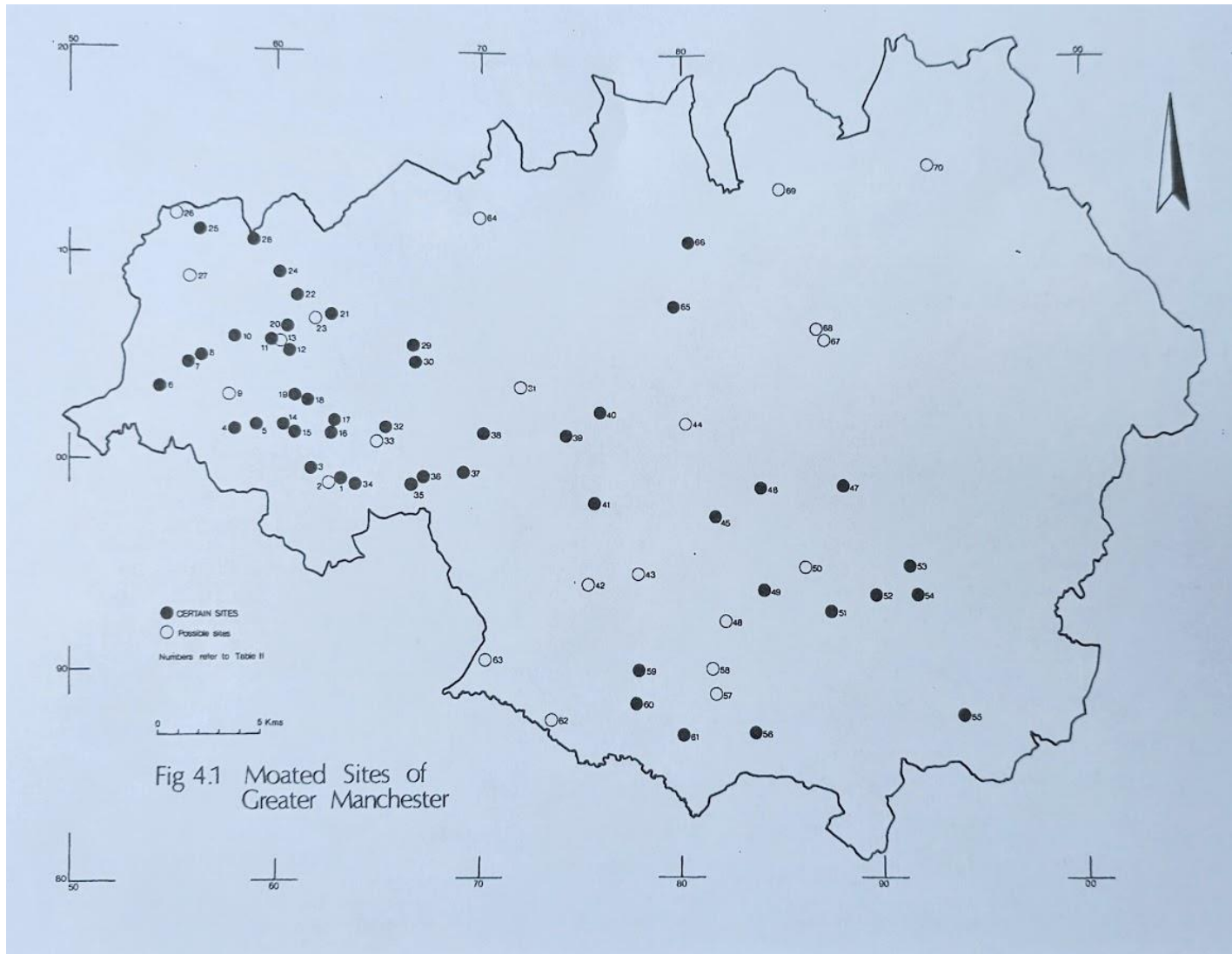


Fig. 71. Map of moated sites in Greater Manchester (GMAU).

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WALLED KITCHEN GARDEN, WINSTANLEY HALL, WINSTANLEY, WIGAN Historic Building Recording Report No. 2001-07 Client: Mr & Mrs T. Banks, Matrix Archaeology, Kenwood House, Kenwood Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 8PT.

A Map of Land belonging to Wm Bankes Esqr. lying in Winstanley and some little in Orrell. 1770, Lancashire Record Office DDBa Plans and Surveys 1.