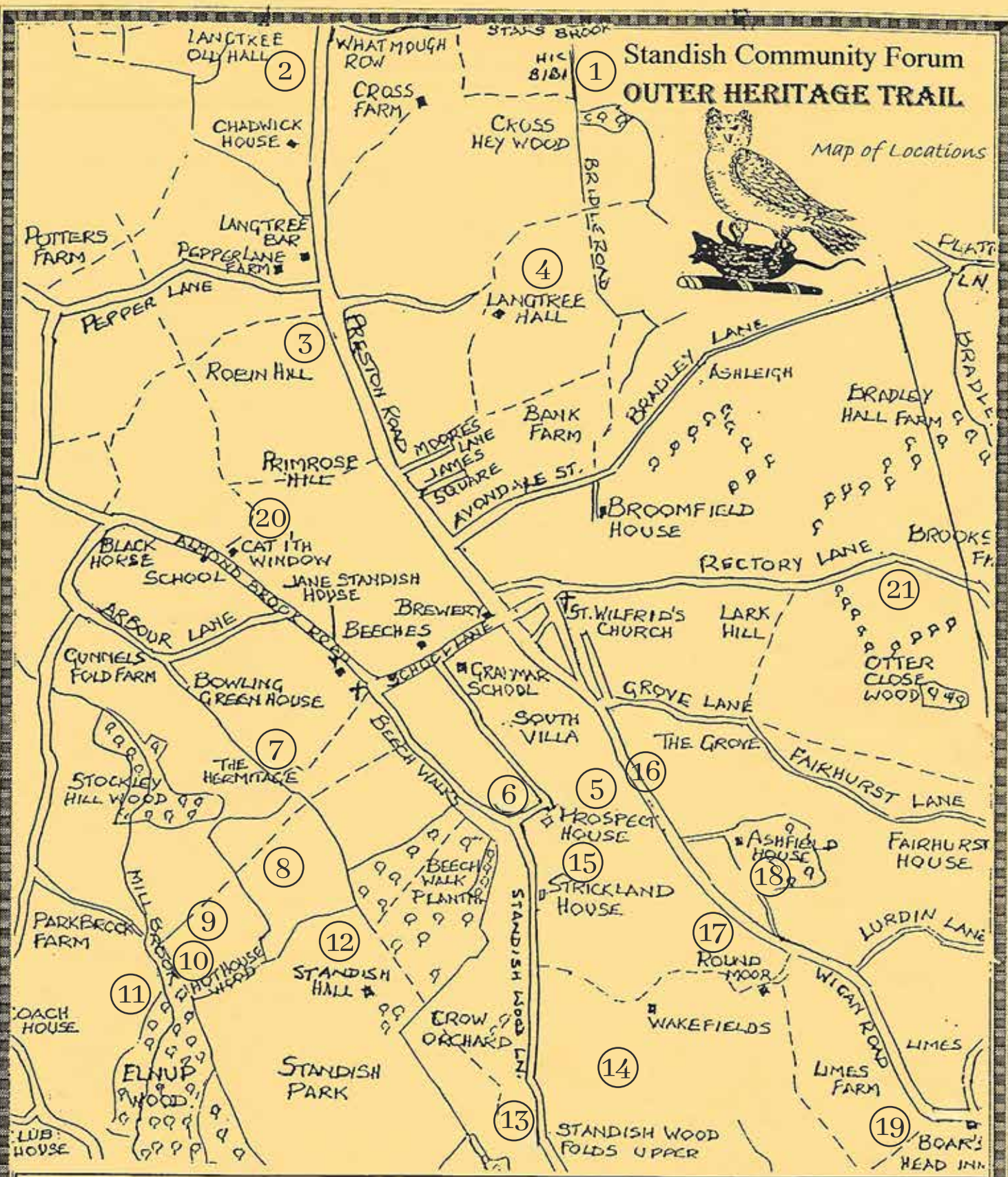


# Standish Community Forum OUTER HERITAGE TRAIL

Map of Locations



## Points of Interest

- |                                |                               |                          |
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| 1. Hic Bibi Well               | 8. Hermitage Pond             | 15. Strickland House     |
| 2. Langtree New Hall           | 9. Standish Corn Mill         | 16. Gate Lodges          |
| 3. Quaker's Burial Ground (HP) | 10. Mill Dam Wood Cottage     | 17. Roundmoor Farm       |
| 4. Langtree Hall               | 11. Elnup wood Boundary Stone | 18. Ashfield House (HP)  |
| 5. Prospect House              | 12. Standish Hall             | 19. Boar's Head Inn (HP) |
| 6. Cricket Club                | 13. Upperwood Farm            | 20. Cat I'th Window (HP) |
| 7. The Hermitage               | 14. Stone Crosses             | 21. The Old Rectory      |

# Points of Interest

**1. Hic Bibi Well \*\*** - This ancient and sacred well was situated to the north of Standish on the boundary between Standish and Coppull. The well is no longer there but the site is marked by a stone. It was first recorded as Hic Bibe. This translates from Latin as drink here; an invitation to drink safe water. The name may date from the time when the monks of Cockersand Abbey owned the land, or it could have been named in Roman times. The Roman road from Wigan to Walton le Dale passed through here. This was confirmed by archaeological excavations in 1963 and 1985.

**2. Langtree New Hall** - Mistakenly called Old Hall on some maps, lies further north to the west of Preston Road. It formed part of Thomas Langtree's estate in 1650. It has been re-built and is now a farmhouse.

**3. Quaker's Burial Ground (HP)** - This piece of land was used for burials by Quakers as early as 1682. The first meeting house was erected here in 1717. It was demolished in 1904 and the site is now preserved as a garden. The few remaining gravestones have been formed into a simple monument

**4. Langtree Hall \*\*** - Here stood the original medieval Manor House of the Langtree family to the east of Preston Road, along Langtree Lane. Part of its surrounding moat is still visible, though no evidence of the original hall remains today. It is now the site of a day nursery. The Langtree family had their lands and hall confiscated for supporting the Royalist cause during the English Civil War. They were never recovered. After the monarchy was restored the Standish family acquired the land and the township became Standish with Langtree.

**5. Prospect House** - Tradition says an Anglo-Saxon castle once stood on Prospect Hill, but if so, no trace remains. Prospect House was built for the steward of the Standish Estate. JM Ainscough, one time mayor of Wigan lived there until a fire in 1910. It was rebuilt and housed Belgian refugees during WW1. It was bought by a Wigan solicitor when the Standish estate was sold. The house became a nursing home before being demolished and replaced by an apartment block. The date stone with Standish crest was retained on the front of the building.

**6. Cricket Club** - The present ground in Green Lane was bought in 1923. The club, founded 100 years ago, was formed from an amalgamation of several teams including a Bleachworks XI and St Wilfrid's XI. The pavilion is a memorial to Dr. Boyd who was a GP in Standish for many years.

**7. The Hermitage** - The 18th century building was situated within Standish Park close to Standish Hall. The house was provided by the Standish family for catholic priests who served their chapel at Standish Hall. It was demolished by the Coal Board in the 1980s along with Standish Hall.

**8. Hermitage Pond** - A few hundred yards from the site of the Hermitage is a large pond to the south of the track. It was created when this area was opencast mined during WW2. The aim was to extract coal quickly and cheaply to support the war effort. Standish Hall golf course was lost as a result.

**9. Standish Corn Mill** - The Standish Estate Corn Mill once stood where the track through the woods meets the wider track of Parkbrook Lane. You will see the seven-metre-high embankment which was once the mill dam. On the other side of the dam was a large mill pond which provided water to power the mill.

The mill was for many centuries where Standish Estate tenants were obliged to have their corn milled. Archaeological excavations in the 1990s revealed there was once a drying kiln, grinding mill, and cottage on the site. The cottage was there until the late 1940s.

**10. Mill Dam Wood Cottage** - These cottages were originally used by Standish estate workers and were completely renovated by the present owners.

**11. Elnup wood Boundary Stone** - Across the track from the cottage is a boundary stone dated 1806. It has the initials of two neighbouring landowners on either side. Edward Townley Standish was the Lord of the Manor of Standish, Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh of Rufford Hall owned land in Shevington. The original location of the stone is unclear. It will have stood near Mill Brook which remains the boundary between Standish and Shevington. The stone was uprooted at some stage but was recovered and placed in its present position by the cottage owner and the Groundwork Trust who own and manage the woodland.

**12. Standish Hall \*\*** - This was the most important house in the district. It was the ancestral home of the family, who adopted the name "Standish" from the area in the 12th century. They acquired ownership of the surrounding land shortly after the Norman Conquest and enlarged their estate until it covered 3000 acres. The Standish family resisted the Reformation and remained true to the catholic religion. They were powerful enough to escape conviction for their beliefs, although in 1715 Ralph Standish allied himself to the Jacobites and was sentenced to death and his lands confiscated. However he was later pardoned, and his lands restored. The hall and estate were sold in the 1920s when the line died out. A local builder bought the hall. It was partially demolished and converted into two homes. These were demolished in the 1980s. Two ancient barns have recently been converted into a dwelling house.

**13. Upperwood Farm** - This farm formed part of the Standish estate and was leased by Ralph Standish to James Taylor in 1725. A stone on the barn dated 1845 carries the initials of Charles Standish.

**14. Stone Crosses** - The bases of 2 stone crosses are situated along Standish Wood Lane and the base of a 3rd cross can be seen in Green Lane opposite Prospect House. These crosses, 700 to 800 years old, were said to be wayside markers, or may possibly have marked the extent of land owned by the church. They became a traditional stopping point for funeral processions.

**15. Strickland House** - Formerly known as the "New House", it was in the possession of Catherine Haydock in 1725, the widow of Rev. William Haydock. It lies on Standish Wood Lane, the ancient bridle road between Wigan and Standish. The original large house has been demolished, but some of the outbuildings remain as a dwelling house

**16. Gate Lodges** - Standish Hall was approached via two lodges, one at Wigan Road which passed by Prospect Hill, and one at Beech Walk off Almond Brook Road. Beech Walk was lined with large beech trees which were felled shortly after the hall was sold as they were in very poor condition. Prospect lodge is a Grade 2 listed building, and the remains of a mysterious pyramid can be seen in the grounds.

**17. Roundmoor Farm** - Built on Roundmoor off Wigan Road, it was the scene of a threat against William Standish reported at the Jacobite trials in 1694. William was involved in attempts to restore the Stuarts to the English throne.

**18. Ashfield House (HP)** - This was built on land called Ashfield in 1755 by Felix Leach, the founder of the Crawford business in Wigan. The house was enlarged in 1872 by John Lancaster, who was an MP for Wigan. Previously used as offices of Standish Urban Council, it is now a wedding venue.

**19. Boar's Head Inn (HP)** - Originally it may have been a hostel for pilgrims on their way to the abbeys of Whalley, Fountains and Furness. In 1450 the present inn was built, possibly on the orders of the Standish family. Their crest, 'the Owl and the Rat', is built into a wall above the window south of the main door. The stone walls are two feet thick, and the tough hewn wooden beams have stood the test of time well. In the early 19th century it became a coaching inn on the turnpike road system providing a resting place for weary travellers and their horses.

**20. Cat l'th Window (HP)** - Originally a cottage with a fine thatched roof, it was burned down in 1901 and later re- built. Tradition says that in the days of the early catholic persecution, a stone cat was placed in the window to indicate that a catholic mass was to be said at Standish Hall. A more likely explanation is that it was a dairyman's sign. Three black cats can still be seen today on the wall facing Almond Brook Road.

**21. The Old Rectory \*\*** - Standish Rectory previously stood on the site where "The Owls" restaurant now stands. The rectory was partly re-built by Rector Hutton in 1887. In addition to the main house there were stables, staff cottages, gardens, tennis courts and a Lodge which was originally the station house at Standish Railway Station (Rector Hutton had liked it, so had it demolished, moved and re-built.) Church Walking Day processions used to end at The Rectory with tea on the lawns for the children. After the death of Rector Hutton in 1937, due to the cost of restoration and maintenance, the rectory and stables were demolished.

## Note:

Where shown \*\*, these are 'site only' locations. (HP) denotes Standish Community Forum Heritage Plaque

This trail has been produced by Standish Community Forum for the benefit of residents and visitors alike

Original by John O'Neill - 1998 - Update by Jim Meehan & Ron Wade - 2024