

Westfield Memorial Village: Conservation Area Assessment

Why is Westfield Memorial Village Conservation Area special?

Westfield Memorial Village was originally built for ex-servicemen, following the First World War. The village was designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson, following his publication of 'The Imperial Obligation' in 1917 that set out the benefits of a designed settlement for disabled ex-servicemen rather than the usual ornamental monuments which were constructed.

The land for Westfield Memorial Village was gifted from Herbert Storey, a Lancaster industrialist and philanthropist, for Mawson to design free of charge. The village was registered as a War Charity in 1919 and, subsequently, financial gifts were received. Construction began later that year and the village was formally opened with a ceremony in November 1924.

The village has been developed around the central War Memorial which features a soldier helping another, signifying the meaning and importance of the village. The streets span out from the statue in a radial form. The village is characteristically designed with green open spaces and streets lined with trees. There is a bowling green and social club, all of which Mawson hoped would help the soldiers' rehabilitation.

There is a mixture of terraced, semi-detached and detached housing in the village, but the overriding impression is its Arts and Crafts design. Many of the buildings are constructed in render with a mixture of mansard, hipped and pitched slate roofs and some with dormers. Historically, the windows were side-hung metal casements and doors were similar design. The peaceful environment created by the spacious and green designed village is a stark contrast to the urban environment of Lancaster.

The Conservation Area is covered by an Article 4 Direction, which restricts permitted development rights of owners.

General

- Associated with the designs of notable landscape architect Thomas Mawson
- Distinctively suburban quality in design, with green open spaces, large gardens and streets lined with trees
- Houses are predominantly rendered with slate roofs and have casement windows
- Overriding Arts and Crafts architectural design
- Centred around a bronze war memorial
- The village is gated from the surrounding Lancaster
- Many houses have a plaque outside with information on a particular battle or individual fought in war

Important buildings and features

- War Memorial (Grade II*) - the bronze statue is the centrepiece of the village and depicts a soldier offering water to his comrade, which is rarely depicted in war memorials

- Three columns on Storey Avenue (Grade II) - the remains of the original town hall in Lancaster c.1670 which was demolished and replaced c.1781. These columns were incorporated into a building at the entrance and were relocated when the village was constructed
- Storey House - a social club built for the village and named after the benefactor of the land
- Bowling Green
- Storey Avenue - street lined with trees and leading to the focal point of the village the memorial

Conservation Area Name

Area (ha)

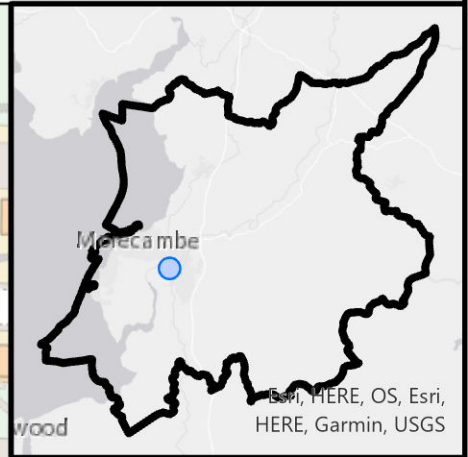
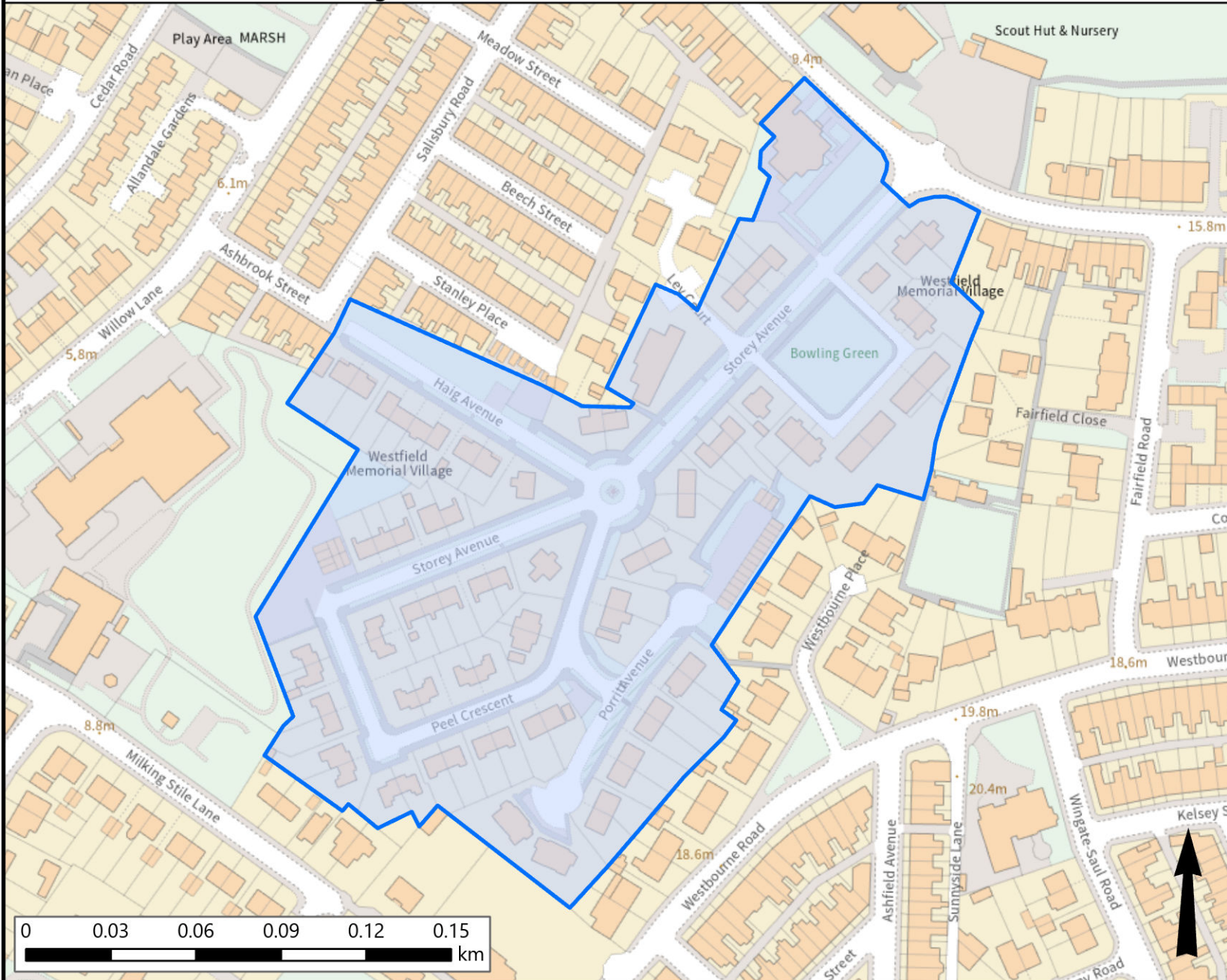
Designation Date



Westfield Memorial Village

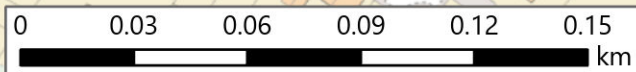
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Legend

-  Conservation Areas
-  Lancaster District Boundary



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Scale: 1:2,000, if printed on A4

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