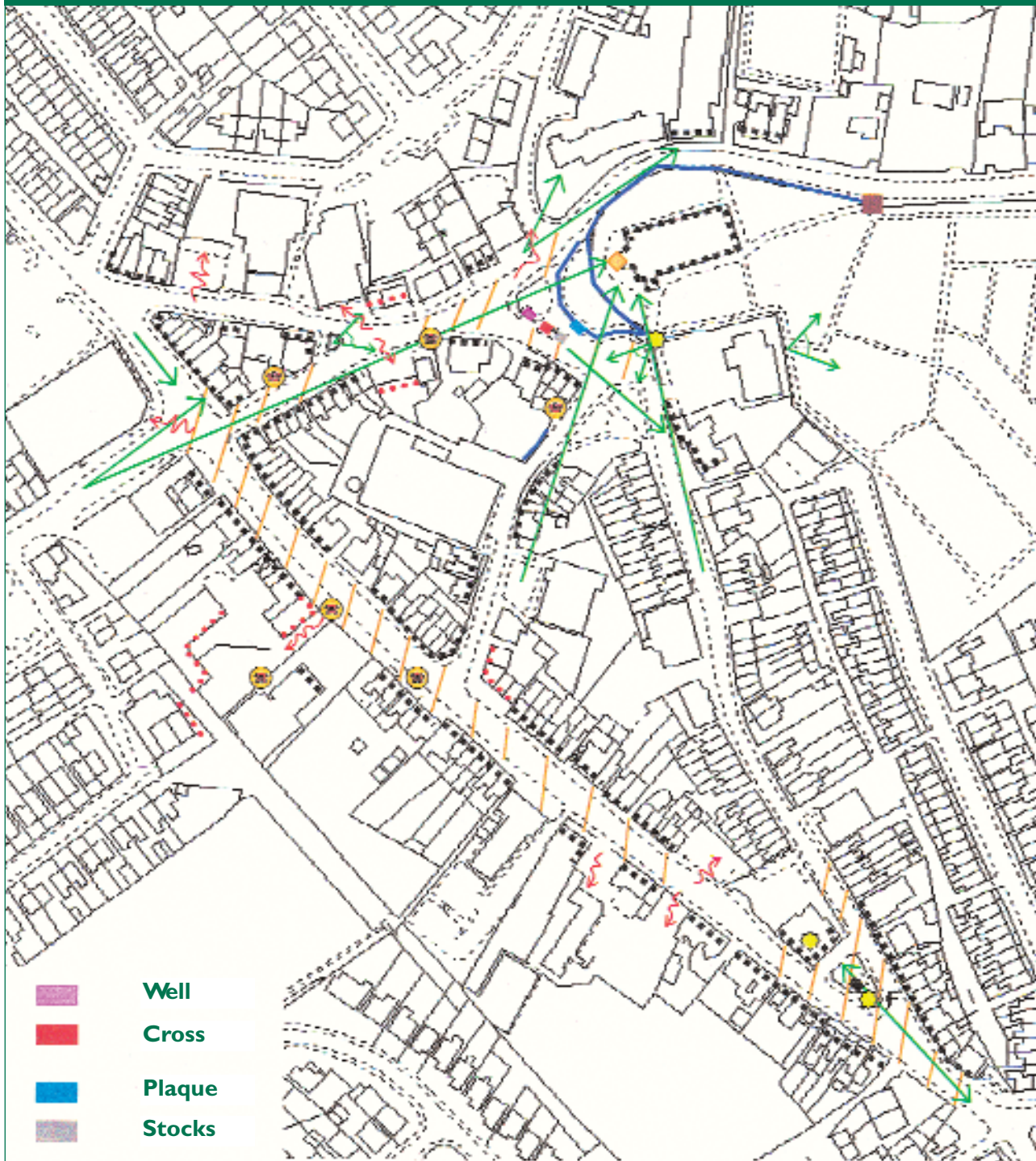


Plan 6 Standish Conservation Area Townscape Analysis

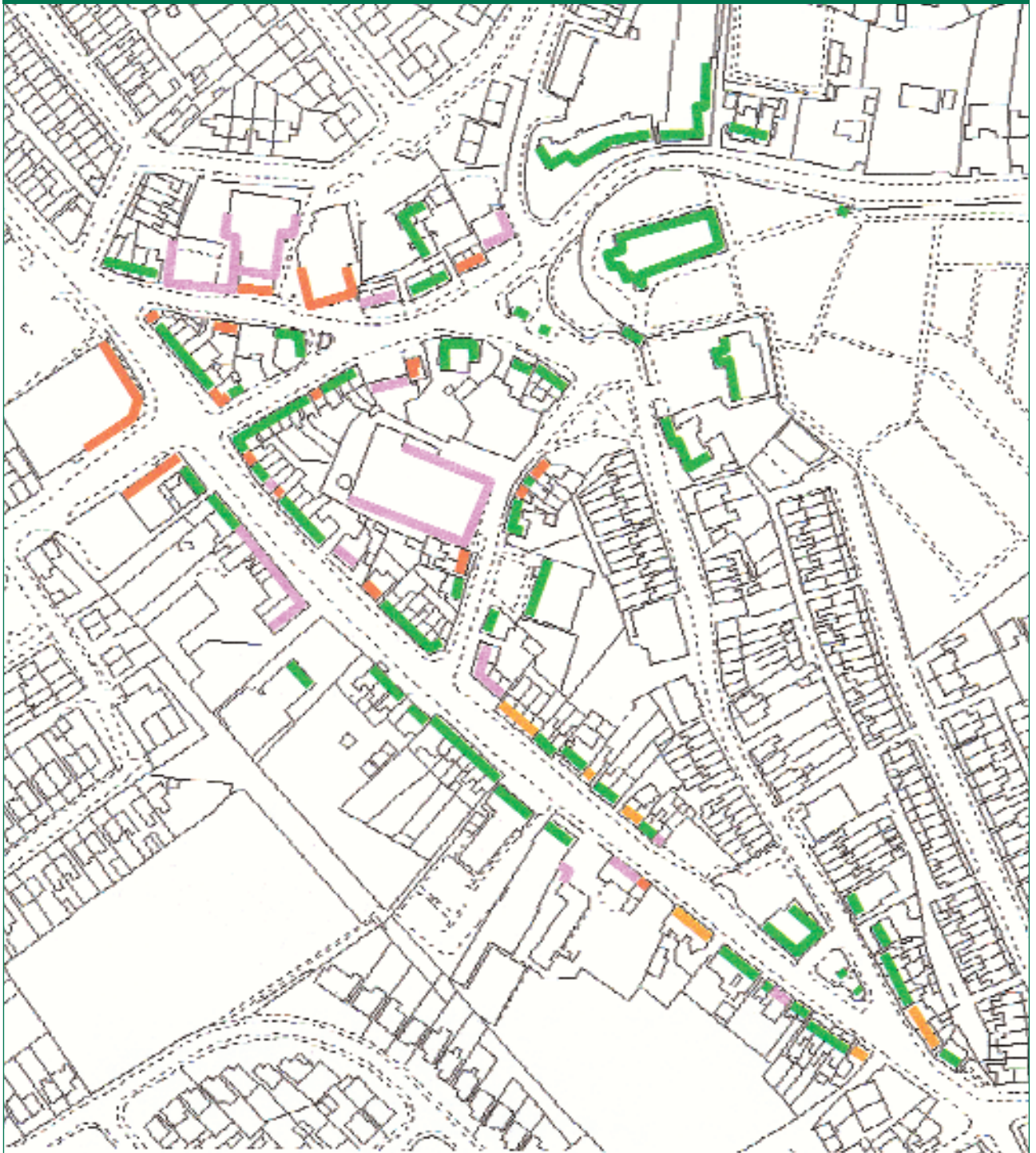
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- | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Well | | War memorial |
| | Cross | | Queen Victoria Fountain |
| | Plaque | | Vistas |
| | Stocks | | Land mark Strategic |
| | Historic frontage/Building Line | | Views towards key features |
| | Landmark - Local | | Telephone poles |
| | Important walls and boundaries | | |
| | Loss of enclosure/Space Leak | | |
| | Intrusive Feature/Frontage | | |
| | Good spatial enclosure | | |
| | Lychgate | | |

Plan 7 Assessment of Frontage Quality

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Neutral



Negative



Positive



FOUR

Historical Background

4.1 Local Histories

The history of the Standish area has been well researched and documented by a number of scholars. Foremost amongst these is the meticulous, though rather academic history published in 1927 by Thomas Porteus, Vicar of Coppull. A copy is held by the Wigan Heritage Service at their Wigan History Shop. Later authors have drawn to some degree upon this work.

Other useful sources are "Standish 800 years of history", a booklet by Nicholas Webb, an archivist to Wigan Heritage Service published in 1993, in commemoration of a 1990 WHS exhibition "Standish As It Was". Copies of this booklet which contains a useful bibliography, could still be obtained from Wigan History Shop in Feb 2006.

'About Standish' by MD Smith, Wyre Publishing, 2003, is a comprehensive, illustrated local history, especially of interest for its description and illustrations of the Church and its memorials and its focus on local residents and institutions.

This appraisal is primarily concerned with the present reality of the conservation area and thus it is not its purpose to reiterate detailed historical accounts. Some reference to the area's local history is however necessary to understand the influences that have shaped the conservation area's physical development.

This section therefore offers an historical overview of the development of the village and focuses upon the evolution of the built form and street plan of the conservation area itself, drawing from various published sources including Ordnance Survey Maps.

Further historical references are given in Appendix 5

4.2 Origin and development of the Settlement.

Standish probably owes its origins and development to its location astride the route of one of Lancashire's strategic communications routes from Roman times until the modern era. The existence of a well may have been an influential factor in the establishment of a settlement on this hilltop site.

Historians and archaeologists have traced the Roman road northwards from Wigan via Bridgeman Terrace and then running west of the main railway where excavations in 1988/89 at Brimelow Farm south of Standish, revealed sections of typical Roman carriageway aligned in the direction of Standish. At Thornhill, near Boar's Head, a hoard of Roman coins was found in 1926. In 1700 a ploughman working in or near Standish unearthed a copper vessel containing 200 silver denarii dating from 90 AD to 240 AD along with two gold rings but the whereabouts of these finds are unknown.

Margary* believed the route merged with the modern road into Standish then ran between Church Street and Heaton Street towards the Parish Church. North of



Standish, he considered the course of the road to be well represented by an alignment of lanes, footpaths and hedgerows leading to Coppull. This alignment pointed very slightly to the east of the Parish Church which was “a fairly conspicuous landmark on this hill site.”

***Margary I. D. 'Roman Roads in Britain' 1957.**

It seems likely that Church Street was the original main route through the village, which would place the Church and market at its centre. This is suggested by local historian G. Crumpton in 'Standish and Its People', Standish Community Forum, 2000. This route would have been closer to the alignment of the Roman Road.

According to local historian Jane Fairhurst,* The Church was also positioned on an east - west highway known as the 'Hut Lone' or Out Lane. Opposite the Church was an inn, the Eagle and Child, said to have held a licence from at least 1703. On the sheltered south west side of the Church an agricultural market became established.

As the Church served an extensive Parish of ten townships, people from outlying hamlets would have to come to Standish for worship, baptisms, marriages and of course to bury their dead.

Jane Fairhurst considered that the arrangement of Church, market and inn represented a typical medieval pattern whereby man's needs, spiritual and temporal, could be catered for. She expresses her admiration for the eye for the landscape and topography shown by

our forefathers before the era of modern town planning!

***Standish Parish Church, Jane Fairhurst; Standish Local History Group 1972.**

Archaeological investigations of land at Rectory Lane in 2000 revealed evidence for settlement of the area in medieval times.(ref.Appendix 4).

The Church not only dominated the village physically but also a major landowner. The Glebe lands held by the Rector extended eastwards from the Church. Traces of a glebe boundary ditch were revealed during the 2000 investigations at Rectory Lane. Modern road names reflect the former ownership eg St. Wilfrid's Road, Churchlands Lane.

Porteus refers to a 14th C deed quoting a highway in Coppull leading to the Church and market. As Coppull was in Standish Parish this could be a reference to Standish Church and Market. As noted by Porteus, the market was never granted a charter. Perhaps this was because it was too close to Wigan which had held market Charters from 13th C. and who's burgesses could be expected to guard jealously their Market charter privileges. Another factor may have been the village's association with the Standish family whose fortunes reflected the religious turbulence of the post -medieval era. Standish was essentially an estate village. Porteus records numerous references to properties held on lease from the manorial estate.