

SITE NAME: Address	Thelwall Hall (dem), Parry Drive, off All Saints Drive, Thelwall, Warrington, WA4 2JH.				
Unitary Authority:	Warrington Borough Council				
Parish:	Grappenhall and Thelwall				
Location:	Approximately 2 miles SE of Warrington centre				
Grid Ref:	651873				
Owner:	Part now Elizabeth Park, managed by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council				
Recorder:	EJW	Date of Site Visit	02.04.2019 06.10.2020	Date of Report:	07.01.2021



MAP 1¹

Map surveyed by Thomas Bird, mathematician, **1743**.

This section shows a sketch of the original hall from the north (front) side and possibly the original dovecote, in which case it was to the front of the house at this time.

There is little evidence of a garden, the land being used more productively.

NB The top of the map is south rather than north.



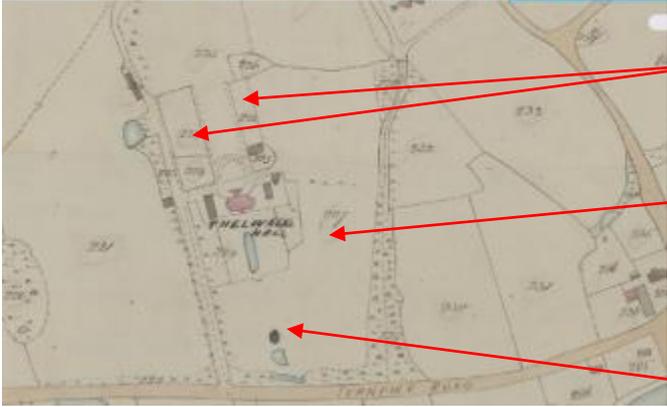
MAP 2²

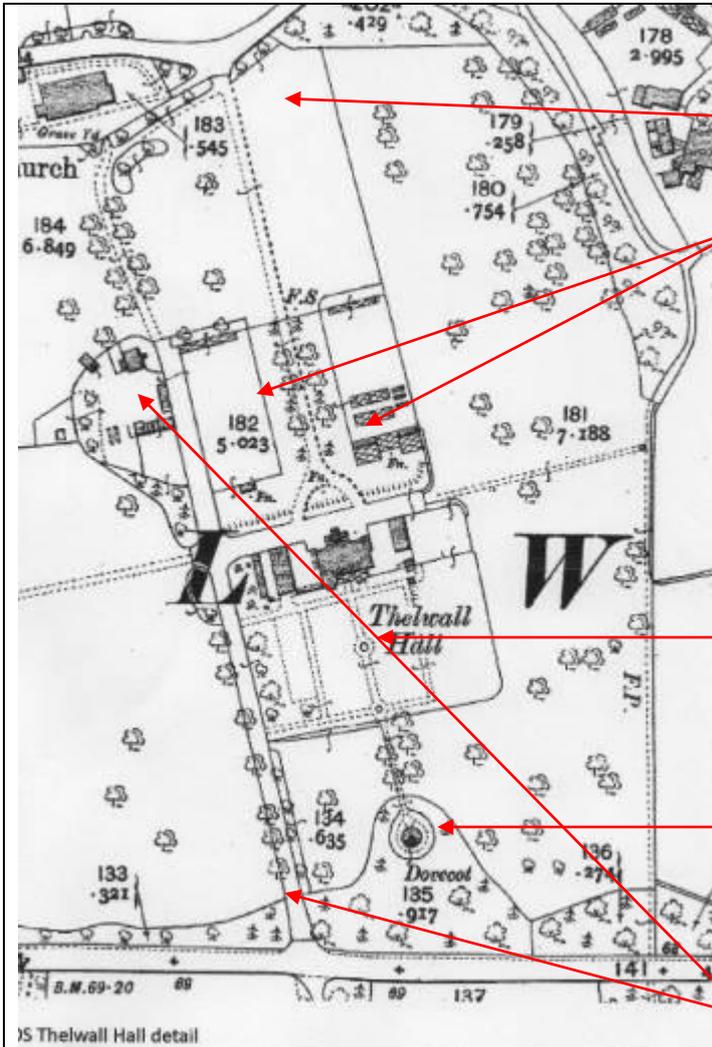
The same map as above. This shows fields, an orchard and the site of the original chapel.

Orchard

Dovehouse

Original walled garden? If so, it lies next to the road to the north of the hall. The scale is difficult to assess on this map; it is possible the new kitchen garden was partly laid on the original but did not extend to the road.

<p>Cheshire Tithe Maps Online</p> 	<p>MAP 3 Courtesy of <u>Cheshire Tithe Maps Online (cheshireeast.gov.uk)</u> Walled gardens.</p> <p>Plot 227 on the Tithe map is described as being the 'Dovehouse Croft with Dovehouse therein and Orchard field'. This tallies with the estate map above (bearing in mind the different orientations).</p> <p>Dovehouse/dovecote. The dovecote has been moved (rebuilt) at the rear of the hall.</p>
	<p>MAP 4 - First edition OS 6" map, 1873-1876. Courtesy of Cheshire Archives and Local Studies This shows a much altered landscape following the building of the new hall. Formal gardens and parkland dominate and the chapel has been replaced by a church (also shown on the Tithe Map).</p> <p>The front of the hall overlooks the kitchen garden(s) and faces north. The rear (south side) of the hall has formal gardens and a water feature. The dovecote (with moat) is aligned with the house and water feature but is in the parkland.</p>
	<p>MAP 5 (as above)</p> <p>Thelwall Hall estate with Dairy House farm and lodge</p>



MAP 6 – 1910 OS MAP

Courtesy of Family History Society of Cheshire

The site of the original walled garden may have been adjacent to the road.

There are 2 walled gardens to the north of the hall, one either side of the main driveway. The walls appear to be slightly different in design, the west one having right-angled walls and the east one having a rounded corner.

The glasshouses shown on the previous map are still evident on this map, but are not on photo 1.

The main changes by 1910 were in the south facing garden. The 'canal' feature shown in the previous map has been removed and replaced by a path and 2 garden features, possibly flower beds or ornaments (see photo 1).

The dovecote and moat remain but are becoming hidden by trees.

Note the wider lane northwards from the turnpike road in the south to allow better access to the hall and Dairy House Farm.

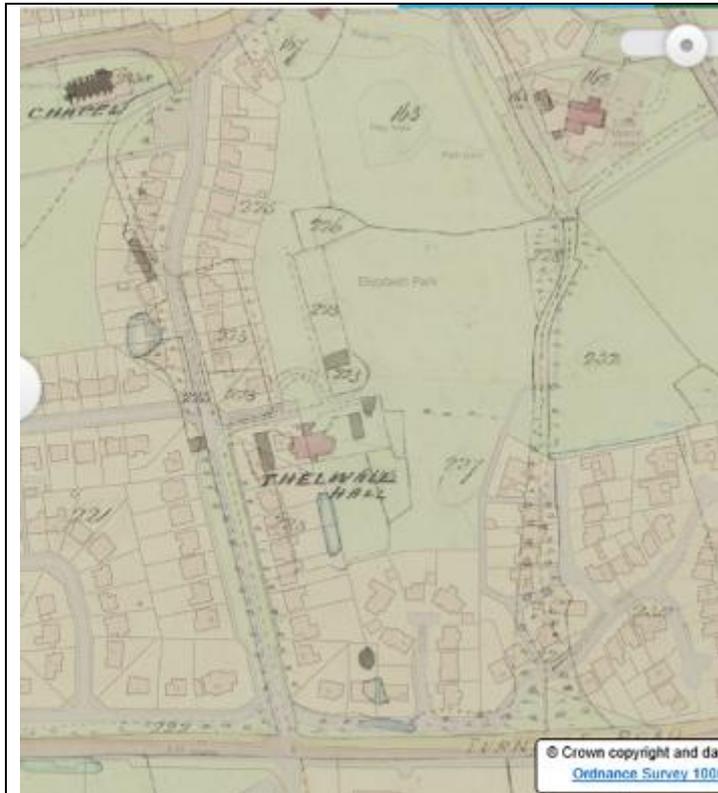


MAP 7 - Cheshire XVII.NW. Revised: 1905 to 1908

Published: ca. 1944

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

This map, published around 1944, approximately 12 years before the whole site was demolished, shows a footpath through trees to the dovecote. The dovecote still has a moat around it.



MAP 8 - MODERN MAP OVERLAID ON TITHE MAP.

Courtesy of [Cheshire Tithe Maps Online](http://CheshireTitheMapsOnline.cheshireeast.gov.uk) (cheshireeast.gov.uk).

The road (All Saints Drive) by the chapel/church has been re-routed to the east, demolishing the main entrance to the grounds of the hall. The parkland has been retained as a modern-day park with new housing to the west and south/south-east sides.

The hall and dovecote were demolished in the 1950s and housing and gardens are on the site of the western side of the hall. A present day access road to houses and the park (Parry Drive) more or less follows the original access road to the front of the hall from the west.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTO 1

Possibly dating to the early 1930s, this photo is in the care of Warrington Library and Museum archive. It shows the Georgian hall and gardens, with the dovecote in the upper right corner. Map interpretation suggests the original, mediaeval hall was on the area between the new hall and the dovecote. Parkland extends to the east and south-east. The trees are more mature, some of them almost obscuring the dovecote. The garden to the rear of the house looks poorly managed but it is possible to make out a central avenue with garden features as shown on the 1910 OS map (map 5). The 2 walled gardens to the front of the house are clearly visible and the older garden has glasshouses inside the walls but the ones on the south facing wall appear to have been demolished, possibly to make a more attractive garden immediately in front of the house.

There is an access track from the west leading to the front of the hall (now Parry Drive) but it does not look as well used as the main track from the north by the church which runs straight up through the gardens to the front of the house.

On the bottom edge of the photo it is possible to see the chimney of Dairy House Farm.



PHOTOS 2 AND 3

These 2 photographs from the Francis Frith collection, now on the Internet, show the rear or south-facing garden which originally was the site of the old hall. The ground is level but there appears to be a slope to the east, as can be seen in the top photo. There are some beds and urns close to the house but this part of the garden is mainly down to lawn and shrubs. The outer walkways, clearly marked in maps 6 and 7, can be seen on each of the photos but it is difficult to see if the central path remains, although there does seem to be a circular feature to the right of the footprints in the lower photo.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTO 4

Standing at the end of Parry Drive and looking south. Here the west part of the Georgian hall stood, now a mound and self-seeded trees.

Houses and gardens (to the right of the photo) stand on the site of the west side of the hall and the added wing (see overlaid map 6).



PHOTO 5

Still at the end of Parry Drive but looking north-west to the site of the west walled garden and the central driveway to the hall. The modern houses stand on the site of the walled garden (see overlaid map).



PHOTO 6

From Parry Drive looking north towards the site of the older walled garden, now the site of Elizabeth Park.

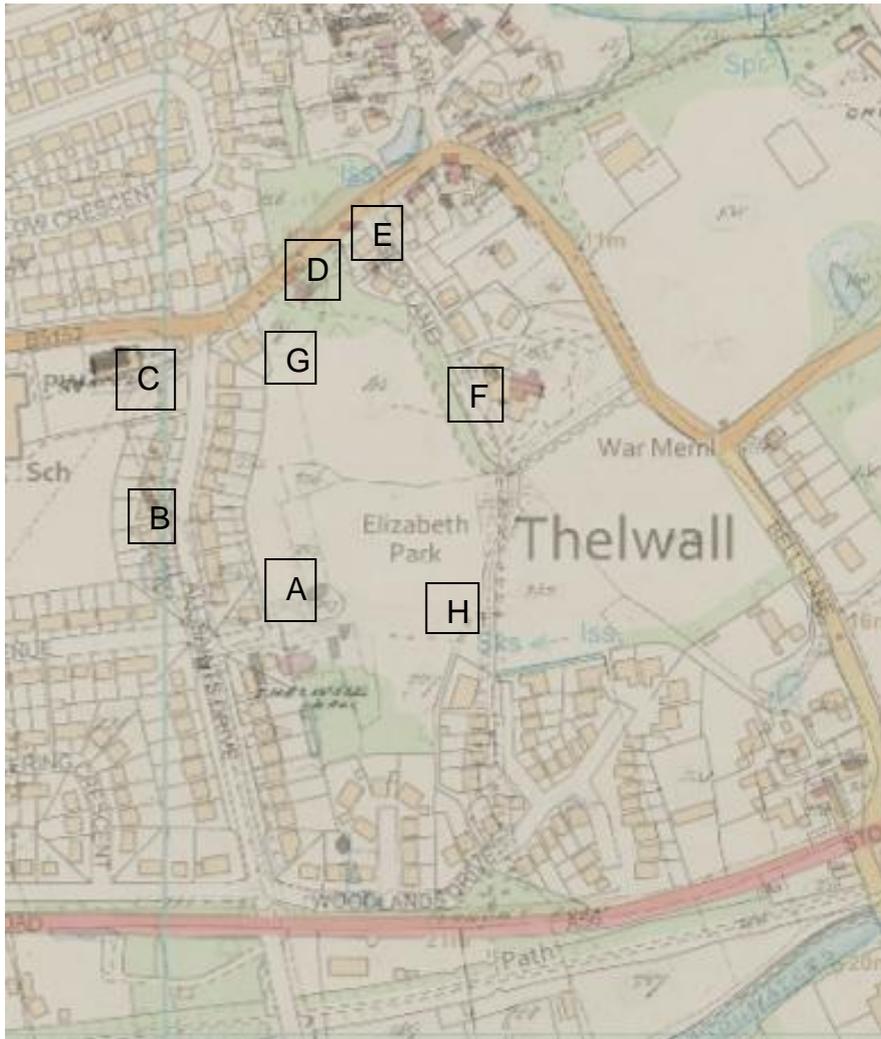


PHOTO 7

According to the photo 1, there were few large trees in front of the house. This appears to be one of the two trees flanking the driveway, the one to the west having been removed when the houses were built. At the time of photo 1, they were not very large.

LOCATION OF SOME FEATURES REMAINING FROM THE TIME OF THELWALL HALL

Courtesy of www.archiuk.com/archi/archi_maps.htm



(Photos: BM)

			
<p>A Remaining fir tree (see photos 1 and 7 above)</p>	<p>B Dairy House cottage on All Saints Drive</p>	<p>C Original gate and boundary wall in church yard</p>	<p>D Thelwall New Road showing boundary wall to Thelwall Hall</p>
			
<p>E Former Sunday School and house on Gigg Lane</p>	<p>F Parkland boundary along Gigg Lane with Little Manor pub to left. Trees dating back to time of hall.</p>	<p>G North end of parkland with surviving trees along line of former drive to hall</p>	<p>H East-west track across parkland with trees dating back to Thelwall Hall</p>

Please note that this report contains the research and recording information available to Cheshire Gardens Trust at the time. It does not purport to be the finite sum of knowledge about the site as new information is always being discovered and sites change.

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¹ Map of estate of John Pickering of Thelwall Hall, 1793. CALS. DWW 1/429-431

² Ibid