

Cheshire West and Chester Council / Chester Civic Trust

LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

NOMINATION FORM

Ref: 13

Name of building, structure or feature (if any) The Pit and environs

Address/Location Village Road

Present use (if any) Social amenity

OS Grid Reference (if address unknown) SJ 443 660

Reasons for nomination (please include at least one of the defined Criteria for Selection)

- Landmark Status – Has communal and historical associations with a strong aesthetic value
- Social and communal value – Is part of the local identity and collective memory of Christleton
- Group Value – It is a group of communal and aesthetic assets to the community

(PTO)

Nominated by: _____

Address: c/o Christleton Parish Council

Telephone No: _____

E-mail address: _____

CIVIC TRUST ASSESSMENT (*Office use only please*) REF No _____

Visited or reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

Principal Criteria _____ Secondary Criteria _____

Comments _____

(Tick one) **Recommended for inclusion** **Not recommended** **Undecided**

CWac COUNCIL DECISION (*Office use only please*)

Comments _____

(Tick one) **Accepted for inclusion** **Not accepted**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Please provide one or more photographs
(print here or identify loose photographs)



<http://www.christleton.org.uk/site/pit/pit57.jpg>

Please provide any historical evidence or reference data:

The pond known as Christleton Pit is probably the best known feature of the village, being adjacent to the principal road through the village, and being both a wildlife reserve and a much loved (and much used) public amenity area.

The exact origin of The Pit is not known with certainty, but it seems to have been created by the linking of several excavations.

Also

- It probably included a fishpond referred to in 1711 in a financial dispute between Gerard Townsend of Christleton Old Hall and Sir Henry Harpur of Calke Abbey, the Lord of the Manor.
- It probably was the source of clay for 73,000 Christleton bricks purchased for construction work at Christleton Hall in 1759. (The lane to the north of The Pit is known as Bricky Lane.)
- In 1794, in an Enclosure Award, Little Heath (including The Pit area) was 'allotted' to members of the community for the extraction of marl, clay, sand and gravel.

Little Heath is still common land, now in the care of Christleton Parish Council, most of the maintenance work since 1987 having been done for it by the volunteer Christleton Pit Group. In 1998 the Group worked with scientists from the Pond Conservation Trust based in Oxford Brookes University as part of a national pilot study into pond development and conservation – the large interpretation board by The Pit is an outcome of that collaboration.

Reference:

- **'Christleton 2000 Years of History' – Christleton Local History Group, 2000**
- **Eric Kenyon, Christleton Pit Group.**