

**Cheshire West and Chester Council / Chester Civic Trust**

**LOCAL HERITAGE LIST**

**NOMINATION FORM**

Ref: 15

Name of building, structure or feature (if any) Nos 1 to30 Woodfields

Address/Location Woodfields, Christleton

Present use (if any) Residential, originally social housing

OS Grid Reference (if address unknown) SJ 443 654

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

- Historic Association – Social housing in the 1940s.
- Landmark status – Is a good example of social housing integrated in a rural setting
- 

(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)



Please provide any historical evidence or reference data:

The 30 white-painted houses in Woodfields, designed by the Chester architect, F.C.Saxon, were erected as the Chester Rural District Council's first priority in improving and increasing its housing stock after the 1939-45 War – particularly on behalf of returning servicemen.

The RDC had received advisory documents from the Ministry of Health (at that time the Government department responsible for Council/Social housing), including its 1944 Housing Manual, and in July 1944 members attended an MoH conference on Rural Housing. The following year, at the request of the Cheshire Womens' Institutes, two women were co-opted onto the RDC Housing Subcommittee, with full voting rights.

The houses were, surprisingly, built by the major contractor Holland & Hannen and Cubitts – the painting of the brickwork was a result of their being a shortage of good quality facing bricks. The first houses were occupied in the autumn of 1946.

**Reference: (Chester RDC minutes)**

The Christleton housing scheme appears to have been strongly influenced by the MoH advice on rural housing, having wide frontages, an attached but separate store/toilet/laundry, and gardens large enough for limited vegetable growing. Access to most of the development was, and is, by wide footpaths which, if necessary, provide limited vehicular access.