

Cheshire West and Chester Council / Chester Civic Trust

LOCAL HERITAGE LIST

NOMINATION FORM

Ref: 44

Name of building, structure or feature (if any) Abbots Well

Address/Location Whitchurch Road, Christleton

Present use (if any) No use / field pond

OS Grid Reference (if address unknown) SJ 433656

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

Rarity

Evidential value

Historic association and possible archaeological interest.

(PTO)

Nominated by: CHG – Eric Kenyon

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)



The Well is surrounded by trees and bushes now and, at the time this photograph was taken, it is also in the centre of an arable crop.

Please provide any historical evidence or reference data:

The extract below is from the 1979 village history:

*About this time (in fact in 1282), the Burnells granted to the monks of St Werburgh 'The Fountain of Christleton' now known as the Abbot's Well. A cistern 20ft square was formed near the village and another within the cloisters of St Werburgh, called 'the sprice'. These two were connected by underground pipes. A patent granted by Edward I enabled monks to lay these across all intervening lands and it even gave permission to have parts of the city walls taken down in order that they could carry out the work. These pipes crossed land owned by a forester, Randle de Merton of Delamere Forest. He objected and dared to cut through them, but was ordered by the King to repair the damage he had caused. The cistern at Christleton was in what came to be known as the 'Well Field' once the property of Mrs Ambrose Dixon of Christleton Bank, now the Abbots Well Hotel. About 1840 it was converted into a fish pond and was noted for its pure water. At that time, it is said, traces of wooden and leaden pipes were found, although other reports state that they were earthenware. Today, the fish have gone and only a small muddy pit remains. Writing in 1959, Canon Byrne posed several questions. Why was it worthwhile to use a spring so far from Chester? How did the monks know there was sufficient fall between Christleton and their monastery to enable the water to flow? What happened to the water after it trickled into the cloister garth and how was it circulated around the monastery? The cistern has long since disappeared and the Canon's questions still remain unanswered.*

**Reference:**

- **'Christleton, The History of a Cheshire Village' – Frank A. Latham (ed), 1979**