

Summary Statements

KEELE HALL CONSERVATION AREA

Keele Hall Conservation Area was designated in 1993. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which merit designation and which the Borough Council consider should be preserved or enhanced.

The boundary of the Area was drawn along clearly defined physical features and includes important historic features and settings of the listed buildings within the Area.

The Sneyd family set about defining their grounds from the medieval period and it continued to evolve over the centuries following much investment. The parkland as it exists today is attributed to Ralph Sneyd and William Emes (1769 plan). This plan in particular showed the lakes in a series of pools extending south-east from the Hall with a succession of dams along the course of a natural stream. Further fashionable garden features continued to be added through the generations including a boathouse, fernery, quarry and viaduct accessed via a tunnel. Close to the hall, stone seats and a terrace were created along with extensive tree planting within the parkland which served to enclose the area around the house. Gravel walks still enjoyed today were added at this time. The three lodges were also added and Lymes Lodge and its tree lined linear access from the clockhouse, are included within the CA boundary.

The University College of North Staffordshire took over the Hall and grounds in 1950 and the campus has continued to grow. The Hall and grounds were included on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens in 1984 including the first phase of university buildings. South West of the Clockhouse (former stables) the land is in arable use. Whilst the campus within the parkland has undergone much change with additional accommodation and teaching blocks, the Keele Hall Conservation Area, with its boundary drawn tightly around the banks of woodland including the gardens within the vicinity of the Hall, has changed little. The Conservation Area retains its special interest and has significance having not been adversely affected by the University campus.

The Keele Hall Conservation Area review is programmed for 2020 and will use evidence and information already gathered for the Heritage Statement for a recent planning application on campus.