

Summary Statements

TALKE CONSERVATION AREA

Talke Conservation Area was designated in 2000 as an area of special architectural historic interest. The following brief statement identifies the environmental qualities which merit designation and which the Borough Council consider should be preserved or enhanced.

The 18th Century Church of St Martin (Grade II Listed) lies within the centre of the village at the brow of the hill and has many 19th Century additions and alterations. Historically Talke was associated with Audley and the Church was a Chapel of ease to Audley Church. It is now within the township of Kidsgrove. The name Talke is said to be associated with its elevated position and was known as Talk' o'th' Hill until the end of the 19th Century. Evidence suggests that there was a church on the site many centuries before. There were many coal mines in and around Talke and Kidsgrove but the Talke pit closed in 1928. To the north of the CA opposite the Swan Pub a stone cross was erected on the site of the market in 1253 (Grade II Listed).

The cluster of buildings around the church and the road junction of Crown Bank and Audley Road includes many historic buildings and structures. South of the Church is Church Farm and its timber boxed framed barn adjacent to the road (Grade II Listed Building). From here the boundary is drawn fairly tightly along the road edge to include the stone walls and further south are located two more listed buildings, one of them timber framed and late 17th Century. A number of Tree Preservation Orders protect groups of trees along this section of the Conservation Area.

Talke was also known for its inns and there is a pub called the Queens Head next door to the Swan where the roads converge. This is because it was on a major route from London to Carlisle. A new road was built (now the A34) to the east to avoid the hill, and this no doubt had a big effect on the economy within the village. It still suffers from traffic issues when cars divert to avoid congestion on the alternative road and calming methods have often proved more problematic than effective.