



## LYDIATE PARISH COUNCIL



# CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Submission for Regulations 16 Consultation  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

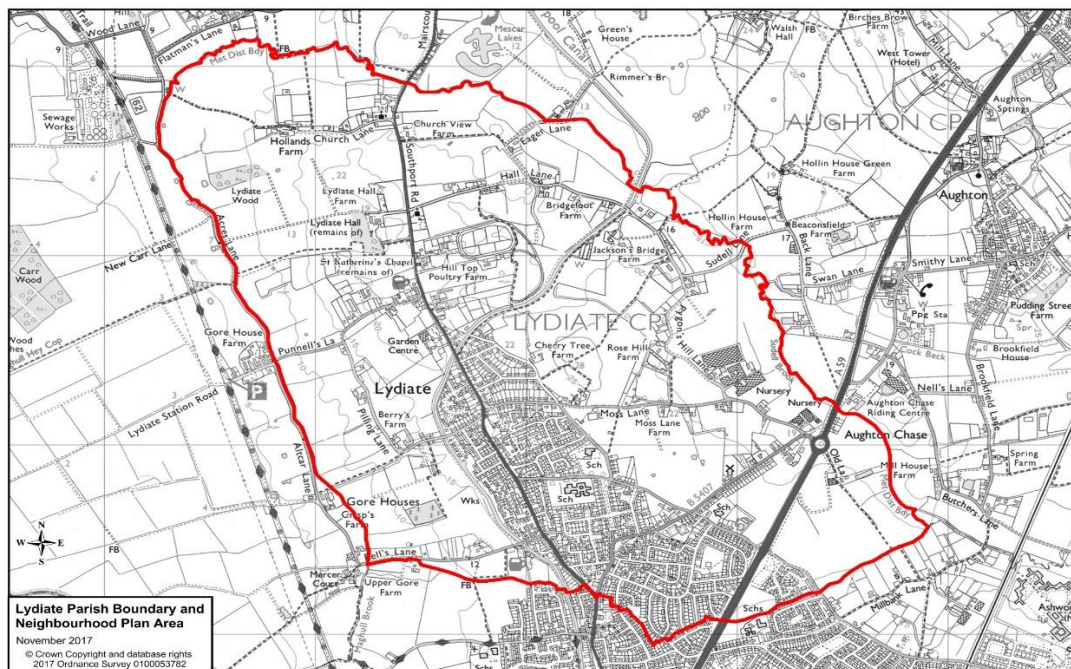
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## 1.0 **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Lydiate has a unique character, one we want to capture, share and retain. This document sets out the character of Lydiate and with the Neighbourhood Plan explains how we intend to ensure we retain our unique character.
- 1.2 This character assessment relates to the Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan Area which was designated by Sefton Council on 25th September 2015 and is shown outline in red on Figure 1 below.
- 1.3 We developed this character assessment as part of the process to develop our Neighborhood Plan. It is a review of the landscape and settlement form of Lydiate developed during the course of 2016-17. The study covers the area of the Plan outlined in red below (the Area) on Figure 1 below. This Area coincides with the Lydiate Parish Council boundary.

Figure 1 Lydiate Parish Council and Neighbourhood Development Plan Boundary



### **Purpose of This Character Assessment**

- 1.4 The document describes the landscape and settlement of Lydiate, identifying the combination of elements and features that make up the character of the Lydiate to:
- 1) enable Lydiate Parish Council to produce its neighbourhood plan and to ensure policies agreed retain our character,
  - 2) enable decision makers to better understand the character of Lydiate when determining planning applications or appeals in the area to ensure developments fit with our character.
- 1.5 We anticipate this Assessment will be used by other people whether residents, visitors, funders, project managers or investors who have an interest in the area.
- 1.6 It is not intended to provide a detailed and comprehensive record of the history of the Parish.

## Stages of production including consultation

- 1.7 We began developing this character assessment in 2016 by undertaking a number of stages which have been outlined below.
- 1.8 We developed a baseline by undertaking a desk-based study,
- reviewing material available on the internet from Sefton,
  - reviewing material available on the internet Government websites [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and
  - reviewing material available on the internet from Natural England.
- 1.9 A series of walks around the parish, captured with photographs supported by a classification and mapping exercise of the landscape, including:-
- topographical features
  - a snapshot of the flora and fauna living in the area
  - an outline of the land use
  - an indication of the cultural associations with the landscape, consideration of threats or implications of change on the landscape
  - the development of a series of recommendations that have been used to inform the Neighbourhood Plan
  - professional advice by Edward Taylor Planning and Design/PlanSpace.

## Policy Context

- 1.10 This assessment is supported by national and local policy - See Appendix 1.



**View of Rural Lydiate.  
Grounds of Lydiate Hall.**

## **2.0 EXISTING PUBLISHED CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS**

### **National Landscape Character Areas**

- 2.1 Natural England produces a series of National Character Area Profiles which are designed to provide data for local decision making. Lydiate lies within the Merseyside Conurbation National Character Area which the Character Area Profile summarises as follows:
- 2.2 “The Merseyside Conurbation National Character Area (NCA) is a predominantly urban and suburban landscape, based around the settlements of Liverpool, Birkenhead, Bootle, Kirkby, Maghull, Huyton, Bebington and Wallasey. The NCA sits on a low-lying but gently rolling platform, punctuated by low sandstone ridges and bisected by the lower estuary of the River Mersey. There is a dense settlement pattern of housing and large-scale industry focusing on the City of Liverpool and Birkenhead/East Wirral, with their diverse historic and cultural centres. Many of the city edge settlements function as commuter settlements. There is a large proportion of industrial land use, with docks, warehouses and associated commercial land, interlinked by an extensive transport infrastructure.”
- 2.3 While the Merseyside Conurbation National Character Area gives a reasonable account of the suburban parts of Lydiate, given the location and shape of Lydiate, on the north eastern tip of this Merseyside Conurbation and surrounded to the north, east and west by West Lancashire. NCA Profile: 32 Lancashire and Amounderness Plain (NE512) specifically the description of the part to the south of the Ribble, gives relevant context to the predominantly rural parts of the Parish
- 2.4 “South of the Ribble Estuary, the plain has a different physiographical history to that to the north, and this is reflected in the land use of the area. It is predominantly highly productive arable land with large fields. Agricultural drainage systems, including steep-sided ditches with localised reedbeds and steep embankments, are a dominant feature, and are responsible for the area’s dramatic transformation from marshland to a rich and ordered landscape of rectilinear fields. This is mainly an area of open, high-quality farmland.”
- 2.5 Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscape Character Assessment of Sefton, 2003**  
In September 2003 Sefton Council published Supplementary Planning Guidance: “Landscape Character Assessment of Sefton”. This Assessment formed the basis for Sefton’s Landscape Assessment of Possible Development Sites within Green Belt” 2014. According to the Supplementary Guidance, Lydiate landscape is a mixture of urban and settled farmlands. These settled farmlands contrast with the carrlands (former wetland areas known as carrs which were drained in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and are now a relatively unsettled patchwork of fields and ditches) just to the West of the Parish, but visible from Lydiate .

### **2.6 The Assessment describes settled farmlands as:**

“An open, rolling agricultural landscape of arable farms, hedged fields and clusters of rural dwellings. A key feature of this landscape is its settled character, which contrasts strongly with the adjoining sparsely populated carrlands. This is an accurate broad description of the rural part of Lydiate.

### 3.0 CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

#### SUMMARY

3.1 Lydiate is a largely rural Parish with a substantial suburban area which forms part of the wider Maghull and Lydiate suburban conurbation.

The landscape has been mainly influenced by three broad phases of human activity.

- Firstly, it has been and remains an **agricultural area**, with the flat land drained by ditches with high quality arable land and increasingly crops grown in greenhouses.
- Secondly, while not an industrial area, it has **been influenced by industrialisation**, primarily by the presence of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
- Finally, in the largely post WWII suburbanisation, a significant portion of the Parish has been developed for **housing** as part of the Maghull-Lydiate conurbation

3.2 The various influences which help define the character of Lydiate are evident to varying degrees in different parts of the Parish. They sometimes overlay one another and sometimes make clear boundaries such as the canal.

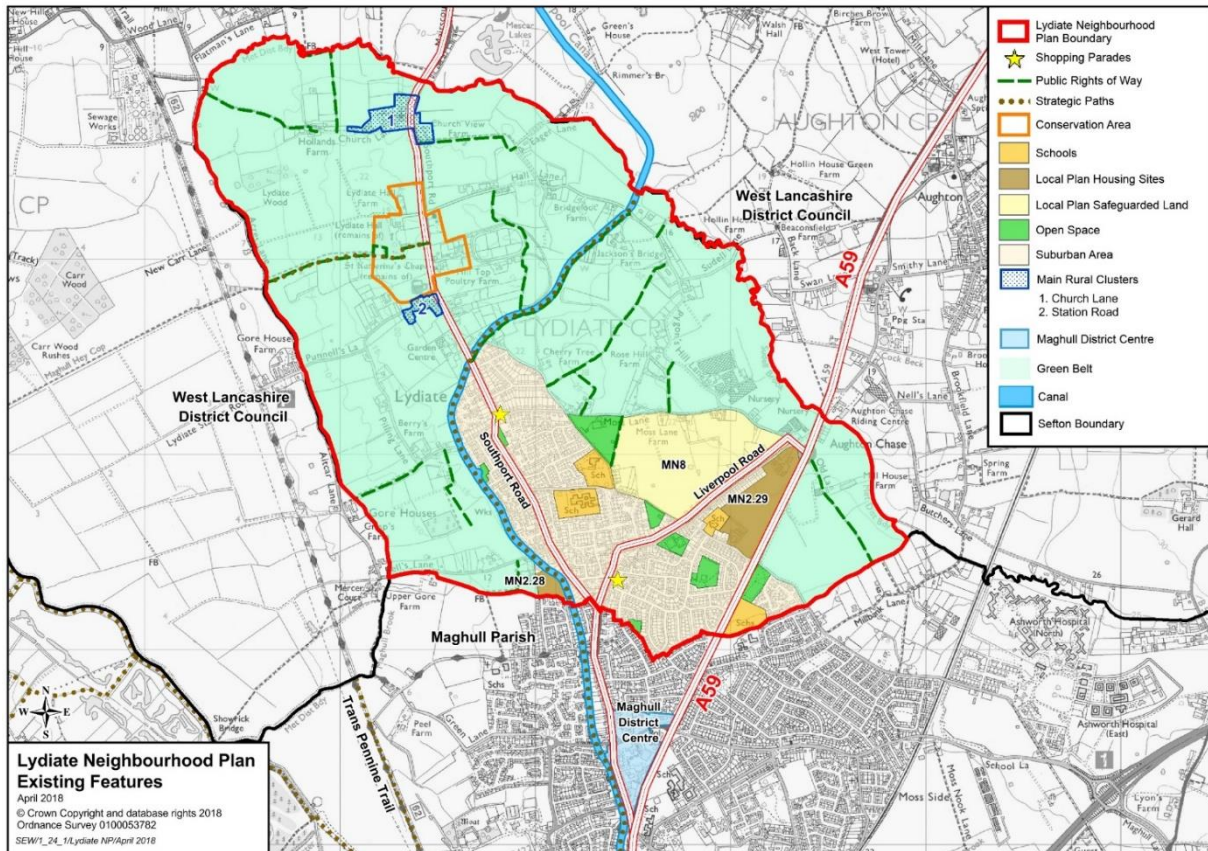
3.3 There are some variations within the rural area, for example, the Western part of Lydiate has views over the carrlands in West Lancashire and feels a little more 'open' than other parts. Also, the various phases of suburbanisation in Lydiate can be seen in the variety of house types and layouts.

3.4 However, there are insufficient differences between different parts of the rural area to merit distinguishing distinct character areas within the rural area.

3.5 The main distinction within Lydiate is between the rural and the suburban and for this reason this assessment divides the parish into Rural and Suburban Lydiate.

3.6 An important development for the future of Lydiate's character is Sefton Council's newly adopted Local Plan which has allocated two sites in Lydiate to meet future housing need and safeguarded a third in case further housing need arises. These locations can be identified on Figure 2 below

**Figure 2 Existing feature showing Local Plan Housing Sites**



#### 4.0 **SETTLEMENTS**

4.1 There are no major settlements within the rural part of Lydiate, however, there are a number of small clusters of houses and farm buildings and occasional ribbon development.

4.2 In terms of architectural style and detailing such as windows, doors and chimneys, size, and materials, they are quite typical of development in the rural area in general whether individual buildings or other smaller clusters.

4.3 The two most significant clusters are those along Southport Road, one around Station Road (see figure 2 above) which is loosely linked to the suburban area via ribbon development and further out around St Thomas Church there are a number of houses and farm buildings and the Millenium Hall.

4.4 Vernacular style of the rural dwelling includes the use of slate and brick or render and whitewash. These features should be respected in any new developments (see Neighborhood Plan pages 11-26)

#### 4.5 **Station Road**

The end of Station Road and where it meets Southport Road is characterised by a group of 19<sup>th</sup> century town houses constructed in a characteristic of Vernacular style, dark brick, chimneys and sash windows. Along Southport Road a number of buildings link the settlement to the suburban area to the south

#### 4.6 **St Thomas' Church**

St Thomas' Church is a key landmark in the Parish and together with its stone boundary wall is the centrepiece of this cluster of buildings. The rest of the buildings, however are set back and are not prominent. They include some 19<sup>th</sup> Century housing and farm buildings arranged informally.

## **5.0 SUBURBAN LYDIATE**

- 5.1 The suburban part of Lydiate (see Figure 2 above) is a patchwork of suburban estates developed incrementally mostly since WWII and smaller scale infill mainly along the older established routes such as Lambshear Lane and Southport Road.
- 5.2 It includes shops, parks, churches and primary schools. It is home to the vast majority of residents in Lydiate.
- 5.3 The edges of the area still retain a rural character through a combination of their setting and being linked visually via green space and views to the nearby rural areas and the relative openness and low density of the area.
- 5.4 It is bounded by the Canal to the West and North, although new development between the canal and Maghull brook on the Local Plan site MN2.28 (accessed from Maghull, but lying within Lydiate Parish) carries the suburban area to the west of the canal at that point.
- 5.5 To the East it is largely bounded by Sandy Lane and Lambshear Lane although housing on the other side of the junction of these roads is included as part of the Suburban Lydiate area due to its proximity to and relationship with adjacent housing as well as Kenyons Lane.
- 5.6 Similarly houses on the southern part of Liverpool Road and the former ambulance station site, St Thomas' school and houses on the East of Kenyons Lane are included as they form a cluster that is contiguous with the adjacent housing along Liverpool Road and Kenyons Lane.
- 5.7 In many respects, suburban Lydiate is part of the wider Lydiate - Maghull suburban conurbation, which has developed with little regard to parish boundaries. The area shares many facilities with Maghull such as GPs, dentists, shops, police station, library, station, secondary schools and leisure centre as well as access routes such as Northway and Liverpool Road and elements such as the canal and the wider rural setting. There is very little in the way of clear markers on the ground as to where one parish ends and the other begins.
- 5.8 Northway is an important feature as it is one of the reasons for the development of the suburbs in Lydiate and it is the main vehicular access to the Parish from the Merseyside it carries a lot of traffic through the Parish.
- 5.9 Bells Lane, Pilling Lane and Station Road all feed into Altcar Lane to go across the moss to Formby. There is a strong north-south vehicular axis along Northway (to Ormskirk) and Southport Road (to Southport) to the north, both giving access to Bootle and Liverpool to the south.
- 5.10 Journeys through the area may change slightly when the new sliproads are completed to Junction 1 of the M58 (anticipated for early 2019) giving improved access to the east.
- 5.11 The Leeds-Liverpool Canal is a significant feature which snakes around the suburban area and provides a natural border between the housing estate and the surrounding fields. Houses on this edge have views across the fields to the West towards the carrlands in West Lancashire.
- 5.12 The Eastern edge of this area is characterised by roads with houses on one side and fields on the other with views across the eastern part of the Parish and beyond towards West Lancashire.
- 5.13 The suburban estates vary in their design especially in terms of boundary treatment, road and path network, density and off street parking.
- 5.14 The Neighbourhood Plan page sets out the key aspects of Lydiate's suburban character as detailed below.



**Extract from Lydiate's Neighbourhood Plan section 4.10 Key aspects of Lydiate's suburban character:**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <i>K</i> | <i>Combination of purpose built housing estates, including Council built housing where houses are now predominantly privately owned due to Right-to buy legislation, and infill along historic routes.</i>   |
| <i>L</i> | <i>A series of green spaces that provide recreation and visual amenity in the form of public parks and green verges and a transition to the open countryside beyond the settlement boundary.</i>   |
| <i>M</i> | <i>Low, predominantly 2-storey, buildings.</i>   |
| <i>N</i> | <i>Strong building lines providing unity to streetscape even where houses have been developed in separate schemes.</i>   |
| <i>O</i> | <i>Primarily residential use with occasional ancillary uses such as shops, commercial premises, public houses, recreation facilities and places of worship.</i>  |
| <i>P</i> | <i>Houses are predominantly semi-detached with some detached and terraces.</i>   |
| <i>Q</i> | <i>Housing having defensible spaces in the form of front gardens with a variety of boundary treatments.</i>  |
| <i>R</i> | <i>Clear hierarchy of streets with Northway (A59) the Strategic highway, main distributors being Liverpool Road, Southport Road, Lambshear Lane and Kenyon's Lane off which smaller streets give access to a variety of estates.</i>   |
| <i>S</i> | <i>The canal which forms an edge along the west of the suburban area.</i>  |
| <i>T</i> | <i>Individual estates, while fitting into the overall character of the suburban part of Lydiate by virtue of their sharing the above characteristics, have their own distinct characters through a combination of brick colour, detailing, use of boundary treatments and relative formality/informality of the road layout.</i> |
| <i>U</i> | <i>Semi-rural feel in parts of the suburban area due to historic roads along which older houses can be found sometimes less formally arranged, the low scale of development in general, views into the surrounding countryside, grass verges, low density of development and the use of brick and pitched roofs.</i>             |

### 5.15 Housing Types and layouts



Junction of Lambshear Lane and Haigh Crescent



Coppull Road



Haigh Crescent



Coppull Road



Moorings on Fielding's



Estate by Kenyon's Park

5.16 **GREEN SPACE**

Lydiate generally feels very green due to a combination of parks, trees and grass verges along roads like Coronation Road, front gardens and their boundary treatments, school playing fields and the nearby canal and surrounding rural setting.



Ridgeway Park



Southport Road



Coronation Road



Byron Road

Village Green, Southport Road



## 6.0 **RURAL LYDIATE**

- 6.1 Sefton's Landscape Character Assessment identifies the non-urban part of Lydiate as settled farmland which it defines as

*"An open, rolling agricultural landscape of arable farms, hedged fields and clusters of rural dwellings. A key feature of this landscape is its settled character, which contrasts strongly with the adjoining sparsely populated carrlands.*

- 6.2 This is an accurate description of the area and useful summary. The rural area is a patchwork of hedged-fields, criss-crossed by drainage ditches and interspersed with small settlements, ribbon development along country lanes and clusters of housing and farms with significant green belt, patches of woodland and occasional small ponds with broad open views and vistas.

- 6.3 ***Extract from Lydiate's Neighbourhood Plan section 4.10 Key aspects of Lydiate's rural character:***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A | <i>Lydiate's rural area is designated as Green Belt and all development proposals will be considered in line with national green belt policy (set out in paragraphs 87-92 of the NPPF). Local Plan policy MN7 sets out how the Council will apply and interpret the requirements of national Green Belt policy.</i>                    |
| B | <i>Open unrestricted views of the surrounding, relatively flat countryside with only occasional areas of enclosure on lanes with high hedges or within small clusters of buildings.</i>  |
| C | <i>Hedges surrounding fields and occasional areas of trees and ditches providing habitats and contributing to biodiversity in the area.</i>  |
| D | <i>Primarily agricultural use - mostly arable farming with green houses becoming common.</i>   |
| E | <i>Occasional housing loosely arranged in small, informal clusters or short strips which are sufficiently spaced from one another so as not to merge and in sufficiently small quantities as to never dominate the landscape. Any development on previously developed land will only be permitted where it follows this principal.</i> |
| F | <i>A network of footpaths and cycle paths.</i>   |
| G | <i>Country lanes which predate the suburban settlement.</i>  |
| H | <i>A small number of landmarks and non-designated heritage assets (see Appendix 1)</i>   |
| I | <i>Heritage sites.</i>   |
| J | <i>The canal which runs through large parts of the rural area connecting it to the wider countryside.</i>  |

6.4 The following photographs taken from various points in the rural part of Lydiate show how views are typically open with fields and hedges and small wooded areas the main features. Occasionally farm buildings or small groups of houses, are visible across fields



**Sandy Lane**



**Sandy Lane**



**Southport Road**



**Off Southport Road**

## 7.0 HISTORIC RURAL LYDIATE

7.1 Lydiate Hall and Chapel Conservation Area includes a number of features of historic importance. Sefton Council's Lydiate Hall and Chapel Conservation Area Advisory Leaflet says the following about the area:

7.2 The Ireland family built St Catherine's Chapel as a private chapel. It is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It was named for St Catherine of Alexandria and probably also to honour Catherine Ireland, wife of Lawrence Ireland who began it. The chapel was built in local sandstone in Perpendicular Style. Today only the ruinous remains of the chapel survive. Consolidation of the ruin has taken place during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

7.3 Lydiate Hall has been dated to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and was constructed for the Ireland family. The hall was a typical black and white half-timbered house similar in appearance to Speke Hall, with whom the family had links. It had numerous chimneys, fireplaces and a great hall. It is also reported to have had a moat. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the building was redeveloped with the timber framing being encased in brickwork. It fell into ruins in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Surrounding the hall are fields which appear to contain landforms which probably relate to old ditches, buildings and roads, though the origins and history of these features are not well understood and would benefit from investigation.



7.4



The Scotch Piper Inn A Grade II\* Listed Building, has been known by various names including the Royal Oak', 'The Bag Pipes' and the 'Highland Piper'. Local legend has it that after the failed Jacobite uprising of 1715, a Scottish piper married the daughter of the local innkeeper and that it was in this way that the current name came into being. The Inn has a history dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century; though the current building is likely a 16<sup>th</sup> century cruck framed building.

- 7.5 Our Lady's RC Church was designed by J. J. Scoles in Gothick style, built in 1854. Inside the church are several items recovered from St Catherines church. Within the church grounds are the local war memorial and a mediaeval cross on a 19<sup>th</sup> century restored base. The red brick presbytery architecturally complements the church.



- 7.6 Apart from the buildings in the conservation area there are several important buildings in the Parish and some listed bridges. See Appendix 2 for a location Map and list of these buildings.
- 7.7 It must be noted there are other assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record for the area, available at <https://heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>. This website should be consulted if further information is required on historical features in the area.



**St Catherine's Chapel**

## 8.0 NON- DESIGNATED HERITAGE AND CULTURAL ASSETS

- 8.1 There are several landmarks, iconic buildings and locations that are regularly used by and identified by our communities which add to the distinct character of Lydiate. These buildings and locations have been identified as “Non-designated Heritage or Cultural assets”, which we need to protect to retain Lydiate’s character. These have been identified listed below and identified on the Map at Appendix 2.



### **Pygons Hill House**

Situated on Pygons Hill. A house built in a mansion house style and is unique in Lydiate. Its wide and open frontage and prominent position have established it as an important landmark.



### **The Forest Mill Windmill**

The Forest Mill Windmill located on Liverpool Road, is a unique feature in the Lydiate context and another example of how the older rural Lydiate can be seen in modern suburban Lydiate.



### **Village Green**

Situated on Southport Road. A small space opposite the Weld Blundell pub. It is central to Lydiate, identified as a landmark and hosts a bus stop for members of the public to access surrounding areas.





### **Parish Hall**

Situated on Southport Road. Dating back from 1935 Grayson Memorial Lydiate Parish Hall is based on Southport Road is now operated as a community venue. It is used daily by different community of interests and is a landmark within Lydiate.



### **St Gregory's Church**

Situated on Liverpool Road. St Gregory's is post war and modern. It is set back from Liverpool Road in a depression which reduced its impact on nearby housing. It identified by Lydiate's residents as a landmark.



### **The Weld Blundell Public House**

The Weld Blundell pub in Southport Road, is an example of how the older rural Lydiate can still be seen in the modern suburban area. It sits opposite the village green.



### **Running Horses Public House**

The Running Horses in Bells Lane was owned and run for many years by three generations of the Walton Family. It lies right beside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and is identified as a landmark within Lydiate.



### **Village Centre**

Constructed in 2010, the building on Lambshear Lane is used as the Parish Council offices and is becoming the hub of community activity in Lydiate. It sits opposite the safeguarded site policy LNPFOU2 and activity and services will continue to grow to cope with growing demand.

## 9.0 OTHER KEY FEATURES

### The Canal

- 9.1 The Leeds Liverpool Canal is a key feature of Lydiate, providing a border to the suburban area and a link between different parts of the Parish and beyond to West Lancashire and Maghull town centre. It has an important role as a wildlife corridor and is an asset providing leisure, recreational and health & wellbeing benefits to existing and future residents. It also provides a visible record, part of Lydiate's past.
- 9.2 The water quality is good. The canal and towpath provide a habitat for a wide variety of small mammals, reptiles, insects, trees and plants. Views along the canal, especially from the bridges are amongst the most important in the Parish.
- 9.3 The towpath is extensively used by ramblers, dog walkers and cyclists. Kayaking and fishing are popular activities. The canal in Lydiate is connected to the 2000-mile national network of canals and rivers.
- 9.4 Canal boats from different parts of the country pass through the Parish, some mooring overnight. Pilling Lane is home to Mersey Boat Club which is the oldest canal cruising club in Britain, established in 1932.
- 9.5 The 200 year history of the canal is evident from the two stone bridges (both listed structures), stone banks and wharves, the cobbled yard (at Jacksons Bridge), the winding holes (for turning boats) and smaller features such as milestones and places where the bank was made lower to allow for the rescue of horses that fell into the canal.



**Typical Canal View in Lydiate. Views along the canal, especially from the bridges are amongst the most important in the Parish.**



Mallory Avenue estate near Pilling Lane.

The canal is a key feature of the suburban area as it borders it and provides a clear edge with houses backing onto and overlooking it.



Footpath above the Leeds-Liverpool Canal near Sandy Lane. Although a product of the industrial revolution, the canal with its associated towpath, wildlife and bridges is an important feature of much of the rural area, providing a border to the suburban area and a link between different parts of the Parish and beyond. It has an important role as a wildlife corridor with both the water and adjacent plants and trees providing important habitats.

### **Tow Path**

9.6 The towpath forms an important part of the network of footpaths in Lydiate which are a key part of the character of the area. They are an important asset for leisure allowing people to access the countryside and providing an alternative to car usage for some journeys.



**Leeds-Liverpool Canal from Lydiate Hill Bridge also known as Billy's Bridge**

## Footpaths

- 9.7 An extensive network of footpaths is an important feature of the Parish. The network connects the north and south of the parish, suburban and rural. It provides important routes for walkers to neighbouring parishes in West Lancashire and Maghull as well as access to the Trans Pennine trail. The canal is a key part of this network.

## The Gallops

- 9.8 Between Southport Road and Hall Lane. The Gallops is a training ground for race horses. A footpath runs around it making it accessible for people to watch the horses training. (See map at appendix 2). This is a key feature unique to Lydiate.



**View of the Gallops**

## 10.0 **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 This character assessment provides a useful basis for guiding development of any new development or housing within the main suburban settlement, the adjacent Local Plan sites or the wider rural area. Taking various aspects of the character in turn, it is possible to draw a variety of conclusions and make various recommendations

10.2 It should be noted however that these recommendations need to be combined with sound urban design principles and in case of the local plan sites, this should be in a comprehensive urban design strategy with clear objectives, design principles, land use and movement framework and design guidance.

### 10.3 **Building Types**

There are variety of housing typologies in Lydiate including bungalows, detached, semi-detached, terraced, town-houses, and flats. In the suburban area two-storey semi-detached properties predominate. New development should reflect what is found in the local settlement.

### 10.4 **Landscaping and Green Space**

10.5 Landscaping may be useful to ensure development does not impact on the rural character of the Parish. Suburban Lydiate is very much a residential area in a rural setting. The edges of the area still retain a rural character through a combination of their setting and being linked visually via green space and views to the nearby rural areas and the relative openness and low density of the area.

10.6 On the Local Plan sites, a green setting for the housing would reflect the greenery of existing estates and the rural and canal side setting while providing important recreational opportunities.

10.7 Some green space would be required by Sefton's policies and there is an opportunity to link any such space with the countryside beyond visually and perhaps physically also and this should be an aspiration. As set out in policy LPNDEV1 (see page 11 of the Neighbourhood Plan)

10.8 Green spaces in Lydiate are tidy, well maintained and semi-formal with play facilities although perhaps lacking in benches and other facilities. See page 22 of Neighbourhood Plan, which sets out items that require investment.

10.9 There may be an opportunity for any new green space to have further uses other than informal play such as performance, education, sports facilities etc. depending on the needs and wishes of the community and this should be examined closely.

10.10 On Local Plan sites, landscaping (combined with the arrangement of houses) should be used to break up edges in order to keep the gradual change and look of the current urban fringe. Lydiate offers the possibility of great views and vistas of the surrounding countryside and Canal and many developments already take advantage of these views.

10.11 Development can have a less harmful impact on the intrinsic character of the rural areas by:

- limiting houses to two storeys or even just one in some cases,
- limiting the size of clusters of development including preventing clusters of development from linking up to form larger ones,
- setting development back from the edge of the road where appropriate, providing off street parking to prevent the visual intrusion of on-street parking

### 10.12 **Views and Vistas and Enclosure**

Lydiate's characteristic open views should be protected by ensuring any development has minimal impact through policies managing the height, scale and appearance of landscaping

especially regarding development on sites allocated or safeguarded for housing in the Local Plan.

- 10.13 There is little enclosure in the rural areas except where the road narrows and boundary treatments, typically hedges are high or where there are tight groups of buildings such as near Jackson's Bridge.

10.14 **Typical open views within rural Lydiate**



**Southport Road**



**Pygons Hill Lane**

- 10.15 Occasional areas of high enclosure due to tight groupings of buildings and high hedges as seen above and below.



**Canal Cottages off Pygones lane**

- 10.16 Boundary treatments for new development in the rural areas should reflect those in the surrounding area.
- 10.17 There is generally good enclosure on existing estates and the townscape benefits as a result. The importance of good enclosure should not be underestimated and can be created by the orientation of buildings as well as the proper use of boundary treatments and trees.
- 10.18 **Access and Movement**
- 10.19 Access points must be to Sefton Council specification to ensure adequate visibility for emerging drivers, including the widening of Kenyon's Lane to provide a 2 lane approach to the junction of the A59, and designed to ensure development is pedestrian safe with no opportunity to become a through road or short cut to other areas of Lydiate and beyond. (see page 16/17 of the Neighbourhood Plan).
- 10.20 Opportunities for improvement to Lydiate's network of public footpaths and bridleways and the Canal towpath should be explored. Enhancements of and improvements to links to the canal towpath would make walking and cycling toward Maghull easier.
- 10.21 Links to public transport, schools and shops both in Lydiate and beyond should be enhanced where possible. Consideration should be given to whether existing footpaths could be enhanced or better maintained including considering whether they could be upgraded for cycling.

- 10.22 Development on sites allocated in the Local Plan ought to link in with the existing walking and cycling networks and potential future links and enhance the overall network by incorporating walking and cycling within the developments themselves.
- 10.23 In Lydiate, there is a clear hierarchy in the area with Northway being the main link between Lydiate and other areas of Merseyside and 2 main access routes: Liverpool Road and Southport Road running through the settlements and with access roads off them onto the adjacent housing estates with a combination of loop roads and culs-de-sac. The rest of Lydiate is accessed by long-established narrow country lanes such as Lambshear Lane.
- 10.24 While culs-de sacs limit movement which can cause problems with lack of natural surveillance where they are long and isolated, that does not appear to be the case in Lydiate and the culs-de sacs in some areas such as between Southport Road and the canal enable development in what would otherwise be difficult areas to access and are generally short with good visibility. The 2 large main sites allocated in the Local Plan would appear to be large enough to be able to accommodate a block structure that avoided the need for culs-de-sac and at the time of writing this assessment, the smaller site was being developed.
- 10.25 **Block Structure**
- On Local Plan sites, a perimeter block structure would appear both sensible and in character with the surrounding area which has houses that face out to the edges of the Estate. This is more desirable as any views of the development from elsewhere would be of the fronts of houses rather than their rears. In addition, where houses face outwards they tend to back onto one another which makes the rear of the properties more secure.
- Elsewhere, due to the Green Belt making only small infill on windfall sites practical, it is likely that new development will be arranged on a more ad-hoc basis as is found in the smaller rural settlements.
- 10.26 **Legibility**
- Legibility is the ability of an area to be understood by people so that they know where they are and can find their way around. Clear visual cues as to where you are such as edges, nodes, landmarks, distinct areas and 'paths' (which includes roads, footpaths etc.) enable legibility. Views and gateways can also help.
- The Rural part of Lydiate is not particularly legible due to the uniformity of the landscape although there are a few significant landmarks that can be seen from a distance, specifically the two churches.
- The suburban area as identified in this assessment has a few nodes of activity around the Weld Blundell public house and the shops on Liverpool Road, a few local landmarks such as St Gregory's Church, a fairly clear road hierarchy with the main older country roads such as Southport Road, Liverpool Road, Moss Lane, Sandy Lane, Kenyons Lane and Lambshear Lane providing access points for the modern estates.
- While any new development on the Local Plan sites should reflect the surrounding area it should also be instantly recognisable as a distinct area in its own right. This can be done through use of materials such as colour of brick, detailing of houses, enclosure, density, building and roof lines and landmarks either new or existing. Ideally, you should know which part of Lydiate you are in. Clear gateways and views of other parts of Lydiate can also help.
- 10.27 **Lighting**
- Lydiate does not vary significantly in terms of lamp post design other than higher lamp posts on roads with more traffic such as Southport Road. This assessment would not suggest anything very different, but modern lamps providing better visibility and reduced energy costs would seem obvious choices.



## 10.28 **Security**

Good quality street lighting helps security and the feeling of security. "Natural surveillance" is important for security which refers to when people can see what is happening so that there are fewer opportunities for people to hide and undertake criminal activity or anti-social behaviour. This is enabled by the fact that most houses appear to back onto other houses and face onto the street and by good circulation of people and both of these should be encouraged where possible.

## 10.29 **Mix of uses**

Suburban Lydiate is very much a residential area and as such most of the area is either housing or ancillary (shops, school, pub, day care).

Within rural Lydiate there are 2 main uses: residential and agriculture with some ancillary leisure uses. There is some tourism and leisure around the canal and country lanes including fishing, boating and walking which contribute to the character of the area. The rural area is dominated by arable farming although some sheep and horses are kept in fields. Housing in the rural area is generally in small settlements in loose clusters or ribbon development.

Any new development could be similar i.e. primarily residential with ancillary uses or could mix with other uses if there was a desire for this, although previous consultation has only shown a desire for facilities for residents.

## 10.30 **Public/ Private Interface and Front Gardens and Defensible Space:**

The public/private interface is very clear within Lydiate. Most houses have some defensible space in front of them in the form of a front garden. The only apparent exceptions are the unallocated parking spaces and associated green space found towards the end of Seaford Close and the Moorings off Southport Road, but this does not appear to create any problems in either case.

Front gardens in Lydiate vary in size and boundary treatment with lower or in some cases no boundary treatments. This would seem appropriate as where there is little space for front gardens boundary treatments would reduce garden space further and in higher density areas there is less need for boundary treatments to create a sense of enclosure. Variations in boundary treatment could be used to help define and distinguish various areas.

## 10.31 **Parking**

Off street parking is common in Lydiate including driveways and garages as well as a small number of unallocated parking areas. The unallocated parking areas differ from many parking courts in so much as they are in full view of the road and houses rather than hidden away to the rear. This may be why they appear to be well used. In many areas of UK, parking courts are not well used and residents prefer to park on adjacent roads and the courts can be focuses of anti-social behaviour. Parking courts require circulation space which arguably could be better used for housing with parking either reduced, on street or directly in front of the flats. However, in some tight or unusually shaped sites they can be an effective way of enabling flats to have secure parking where other solutions don't appear possible.

Garages nowadays, tend not to be used for the purposes of storing vehicles and tend to be used for other purposes. Their inclusion would not be essential for meeting parking demands. Nor would they be essential from a character point of view as there are plenty of houses in Lydiate that do not have garages.

### 10.32 **Materials and details**

Various coloured bricks are found in Lydiate and some houses are finished in render. Houses are generally simple with very few notable details other than those added by householders such as might be found on porches although there are some that have timber detailing. Various colours of roof tiles are visible. New houses should be finished with materials similar to those used locally i.e. brick or render although use of sandstone could be appropriate in some circumstances.

In any new development, a variety of brick colours and detailing such as occasional use of patterned brick work, quoins, corbels and roofing materials could be used to help define and distinguish various areas while reflecting existing development in the rest of the Parish.

### 10.33 **Height/ Scale**

Housing varies from bungalows to three storey blocks of flats at the Moorings and the corner of Liverpool Road and Southport Road which have been designed to resemble townhouses, but most houses are two storeys. Three storey housing is limited to the interior parts of housing estates, away from the edges where they would detract from the openness of the countryside.

### 10.34 **Building lines**

These vary throughout the area. There are consistent building lines on straight roads, but these give way where buildings are staggered on curves in order to orient them towards the road. New development can make use of building lines or lack of them to help define and distinguish various areas.

### 10.35 **Roof lines**

There are strong roof lines throughout most of suburban Lydiate and also in rural parts where series of houses have been built such as along Hall Lane. Sometimes different groups of housing respect pre-existing roof lines such as along Southport Road. New development should respect adjacent roof lines where appropriate but can also make use of roof lines or lack of them to help define and distinguish various areas.

### 10.36 **Rhythms**

There are some strong rhythms created by the spacing of houses, windows and doors in the suburban estates due to the standard nature of housing, but less so in the rural areas. Strong rhythms can create a sense of unity in an area and new development could use this to help define and distinguish areas.

### 10.37 **Windows and Doors**

Windows are predominantly casement, but some sash windows are found in some of the older buildings for example around Station Road. There is not a great variety of doors which are generally understated. Variations in windows and doors can be used to define and distinguish areas within new development while also reflecting nearby development. In particular, attention should be paid to houses near to existing housing.

### 10.38 **Bin Storage**

Requirements for waste disposal and recycling have changed since much of the housing in Lydiate was built, but there are things that can be done to help keep bins out of sight including special bin storage areas to the rear or sides of buildings. Pairs of semi-detached houses have alleys running between them and adjacent pairs to rear gardens and these could be a feature of new housing.

### 10.39 **Nature Conservation**

Natural flora and fauna can be protected and encouraged by protecting and enhancing habitats including hedges, ditches, ponds, woodlands, wild areas and the canal. These elements should be seen as forming part of a connected system and opportunities to enhance it should be taken.

## APPENDIX 1 POLICY CONTEXT

### Policy Context

#### National Policy

Under the Localism Act, local communities can develop Neighbourhood Plans which include land use planning policies to affect the location and nature of development in their areas. Neighbourhood Plan policies and their determination can be informed by Landscape Character Assessments which identify the elements which make up the character of the area.

This landscape character assessment will be used to inform the Lydiate Neighbourhood Plan and form part of the evidence base for the Plan.

#### National Planning Policy Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Neighbourhood Plans are required to conform with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as well as the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The NPPF creates a policy framework for neighbourhood plans to plan positively for design, environment and landscape.

Regarding Neighbourhood Plans, the NPPF states that decision making should:

**“be** genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and neighbourhood plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area”.

With respect to design, character and landscape in the planning process, the core principles of the National Planning Policy Framework state that planning should:

**“always** seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings”

**“take** account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it”.

It further states that “Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks” and that policy and planning decisions should take account of “opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place”.

The NPPF sets out how the plans should address good design in Section 7.

Paragraph 58: “Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics. Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term, but over the lifetime of the development;
- establish a strong sense of place, using streetscapes and buildings to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit;
- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments) and support local facilities and transport networks;
- respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation;
- create safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and
- are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping

Planning policies should not seek to impose specific styles or features, however they should not stifle innovation originality or initiative, but should promote or reinforce local distinctiveness (para. 60); planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment (para. 61) and great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative design (para. 63).

Paragraph 121 requires that planning policies and decisions should 'identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason'

Paragraph 28 states that local and neighbourhood plans should support sustainable rural development which respects the character of the countryside.

The NPPF includes further policies on landscape and the environment:

Paragraph 109: The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

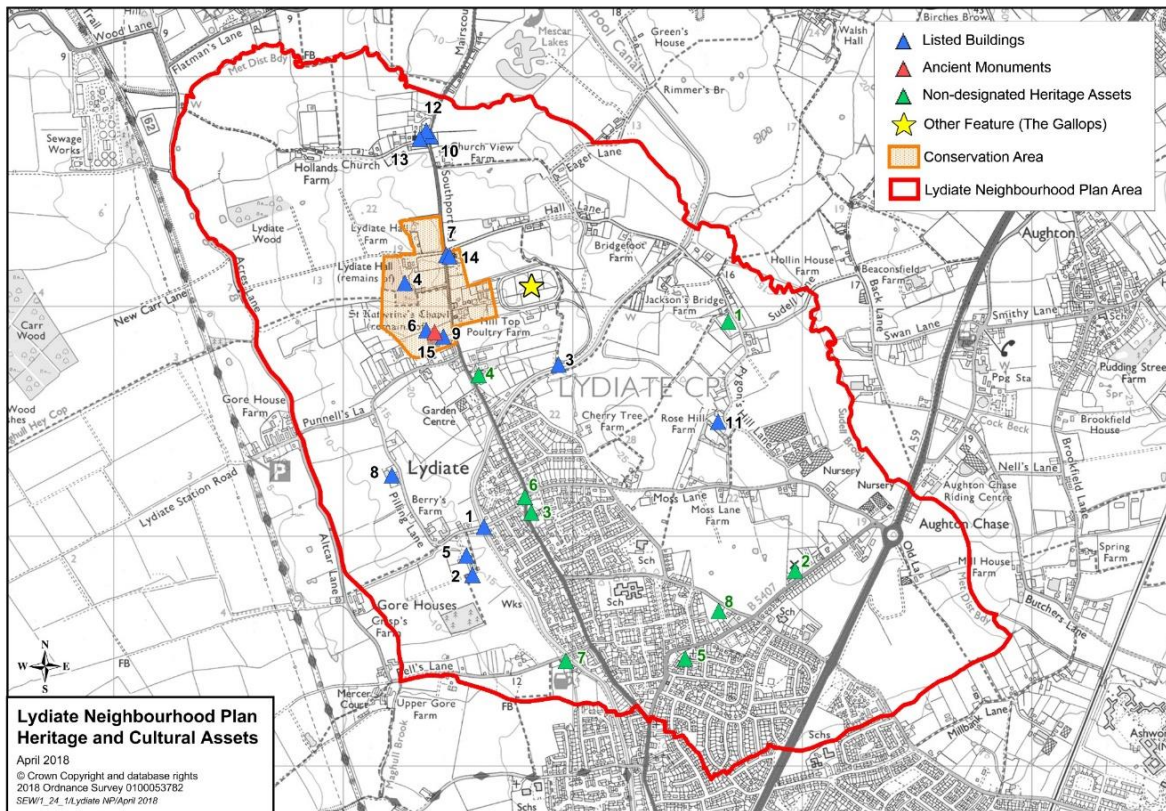
'protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;'

Paragraph 113: Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to wider ecological networks.

Paragraph 117: To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should: plan for biodiversity at a landscape-scale across local authority boundaries;

Paragraph 125: By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

## Appendix 2 Lydiate Heritage and Cultural Assets



### LISTED BUILDINGS

Location Number on Map as a <b>BLUE</b> triangle	Name	List Entry Number	Heritage Category	Grade	Locations
1	LYDIATE BRIDGE	1199419	Listing	II	Lydiate Bridge Pilling Lane, Lydiate, Sefton
2	BARN TO LYDIATE HOUSE	1075835	Listing	II	Barn to Lydiate House Pilling Lane, Lydiate, Sefton
3	LYDIATE HILL BRIDGE	1075839	Listing	II	Lydiate, Sefton
4	REMAINS OF LYDIATE HALL	1075840	Listing	II	REMAINS OF LYDIATE HALL, SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
5	CARRIAGE HOUSE AT LYDIATE HOUSE	1075877	Listing	II	CARRIAGE HOUSE AT LYDIATE HOUSE, PILLING LANE, Lydiate, Sefton
6	ST KATHERINES CHAPEL (LYDIATE ABBEY)	1199469	Listing	II*	ST KATHERINES CHAPEL (LYDIATE ABBEY), SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
7	CROSS APPROXIMATELY 10	1075838	Listing	II	CROSS APPROXIMATELY 10 METRES NORTH OF

	METRES NORTH OF CHURCH OF OUR LADY				CHURCH OF OUR LADY, SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
8	MEADOW VIEW FARMHOUSE	1075836	Listing	II	MEADOW VIEW FARMHOUSE, 145 AND 147, PILLING LANE, Lydiate, Sefton
9	THE SCOTCH PIPER PUBLIC HOUSE	1343315	Listing	II*	THE SCOTCH PIPER PUBLIC HOUSE, SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
10	CHURCH VIEW COTTAGE	1075837	Listing	II	CHURCH VIEW COTTAGE, SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
11	ROSE HILL	1343312	Listing	II	ROSE HILL, PYGON'S HILL LANE, Lydiate, Sefton
12	CHURCH HOUSE	1343314	Listing	II	CHURCH HOUSE, SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
13	CHURCH OF ST THOMAS	1343291	Listing	II	CHURCH OF ST THOMAS, CHURCH LANE, Lydiate, Sefton
14	CHURCH OF OUR LADY	1343313	Listing	II	CHURCH OF OUR LADY, SOUTHPORT ROAD, Lydiate, Sefton
<b>ANCIENT MONUMENTS</b>		<b>List Entry Number</b>	<b>Heritage Category</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Locations</b>
15 <b>Location Number on Map RED triangle</b>	DOMESTIC CHAPEL OF ST KATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA AND BURIAL GROUND	1017499	Scheduling	N/A	Lydiate, Sefton
<b>CONSERVATION AREA</b>		LYDIATE HALL AND CHAPEL CONSERVATION AREA			
<b>NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE &amp; CULTURAL ASSETS</b>					
<b>Location on map as a GREEN Triangle</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>			
1	Pygons Hill House	Pygons Hill, Lydiate, Sefton			
2	Forest Mill - Windmill	Liverpool Road, Lydiate, Sefton			
3	Lydiate Village Green	Southport Road, Lydiate, Sefton			
4	Lydiate Parish Hall	288 Southport Road, Lydiate, Sefton			
5	St Gregory's Church	94 Liverpool Road, Lydiate, Sefton			
6	Weld Blundell Public House	Southport Road, Lydiate, Sefton			
7	Running Horses Public house	25 Bells Lane, Lydiate, Sefton			
8	Lydiate Village Centre	Lamshear lane, Lydiate Sefton			

