



**BLACON HISTORY GROUP**



# **HISTORY & HEALTH TRAIL**

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**APRIL 2021**

**BLACON HISTORY GROUP--- History Hunters**  
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Site Nos	Type	Location	Road	Year
1	Farm	Blacon House Farm	Saughall Road	1884
2	Farm Cottages	Blacon House Farm Cottages	Saughall Road	1885
3	Nature	Blacon Escarpment & Ancient Woodland	Saughall Road	pre 1746 17 th Century
4	Farm Lodge	Blacon Hall Farm Lodge - former site	Saughall Road ChurchHall	
5	Religious	Former St Chad's Church	Close	1929
6	Transport	Blacon Railway Cottages	Saughall Road	1890s
7	Farm Cottages	Old Farm Cottages	St Chad's Road Blacon Point	1878
8	Farm Cottages	Smith's Cottages	Road	pre 1843
9	Farm	Blacon Point Farm	Blacon Point Road	circa 1734
10	Leisure	Blacon Golf Course	Blacon Point Road	1930
11	Leisure	Blacon Nature Park	Road	1989
12	Military	Blacon Army Camp Officer's Houses	Rawson Road Blacon Point	1936-1960
13	Roman	Roman Blacon Point Lookout Fort	Road	AD 60
14	Military	Blacon Army Camp NCO's Houses	Willan Road	1936-1960
15	Military	Blacon Army Camp	Western Avenue	1936-1960
16	Transport	Blacon Railway Station & Sidings	Saughall Road	1968
17	Transport	Blacon Greenway & Cycle track	Saughall Road	post 1992
18	Farm	Broadcylst Farm	Saughall Road	Pre1933
19	Transport	Kingswood Lane /Saltesway	Saughall Road	1339/40
20	Religious	Holy Trinity Church	Norris Road	1960
21	Roman	Roman Coin found	Lincoln Road	1953
22	Religious	St Theresa's Church	Blacon Avenue	1959 17 th Century
23	Farm	Blacon Hall Farm	Shelley Road	Century
24	Leisure	Blacon Adventure Playground & Farm	Shelley Road	1966
25	Leisure	King George V Playing Fields	Blacon Avenue	1956
26	Transport	Shropshire Union Canal "Old Man Moore's Bridge"	Blacon Avenue	1772-1776



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## History Trail

## Full Fact Sheet

### 1. Blacon House Farm 1884

The first residence on entering Blacon on Saughall Road .From around 1884 it was farmed by Henry Dodd who came from a farm in Mickle Trafford. Look out for Lord Crewe of Crewe's crest plaques

### 2. Blacon House Farm Cottages 1885

On the old river bank escarpment approximately 100 yards nearer Blacon were two farm workers now known as The Chimneys and owned and occupied by Carol & Dave Cartwright. Look out for Lord Crewe of Crewe's crest plaques

### 3. Blacon Escarpment & Ancient Woodland pre 1740

The Blacon escarpment is a direct result of the diversion of the river Dee in 1746 away from the shores of the ancient wooded river bank escarpment which runs from circa Cheyney Road, skirting the Blacon plateau along Sealand Road to Shotwick village,

### 4. Blacon Hall Farm Lodge - former site

From the house of the corner of Blacon Point and Saughall Road a lane curved to the right along the bottom of Venables Field and led to Blacon Hall Farm. This is now Blacon Hall Road

### 5. Former St Chad's Church

The foundation stone was laid by Dr. Padget, Bishop of Chester. on 11th June 1929 and the Church of St. Chads was the regular place of worship until the new parish church of Holy Trinity was completed in 1960.



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## **6. Blacon Railway Cottages**

Built in the mid -1890s for railway workers @ the nearby Blacon Station

## **7. Blacon Point Old Farm Cottages 1878**

3 farm workers cottages in St Chad's Rd . Look out for Lord Crewe of Crewe's crest plaques.

## **8. Smith's Cottages pre 1843.**

Probably Georgian ,Blacon Point farm workers cottages. Once occupied by the shepherds and farm gardener .Now 2 and 4 Blacon Point, but opposite was Smith's Wood .where partridges and pheasants were reared.

## **9. Blacon Point Farm circa 1734**

The oldest of the 4 original farms in Blacon. On the corner of Blacon Point Rd and Clifton Drive, this Farmstead was bought in 1935 by T B Gorst

## **10. Blacon Golf Course 1937- 1938 –**

Owned by T B Gorst at the rear of Blacon Point Farm. The Golf House was situated on the site that is the “mound2” in the Nature Park.

## **11 Blacon Nature Park 1987 –**

On the site of the former Blacon Golf Club. Originally 5 acres of wildflower meadows and woodlands, complete with pond.

## **12 Blacon Army Camp Officer's Houses 1936- 1960**

Built for the resident Regimental Officers for the 26 Machine Gun Training Centre based in Blacon Army Camp

## **13 Roman Blacon Point Lookout Fort AD 60 –**

Wooden fort on the former banks of the river Dee. A very unique site built circa 15 years before the main legionary fortress of Chester [Deva Victrix]

## **14. Blacon Army Camp NCO's Houses 1936- 1960**

Built for the resident Regimental NC Officers for the 26 Machine Gun Training Centre based in Blacon Army Camp



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## **15. Blacon Army Camp 1936- 1960 –**

One of only 2 specialist units in the British Army Home initially to the Middlesex Regiment and then circa 1943 the Northumberland Fusiliers who established 8 training companies and 2 Regimental companies called the [26<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Training Centre

## **16. Blacon Railway Station & Sidings 1890 – 1968**

Blacon station was opened on 31 March 1890 by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway (later the Great Central Railway). The station had two side platforms and the station master's house. To the east was a brick goods warehouse with freight depot and sidings. The 21-lever signal box, opposite the goods yard, was in use until 6 October 1963

## **17 Blacon Greenway & Cycle track – post 1992**

Looking down on Blacon Greenway from the old railway bridge on Saughall Road overlooking the site of Blacon Station you will see it. The old track bed is part of National Cycle Route 5. There are signs on both sides of the bridge saying "Welcome to Blacon Greenway"

## **18. Broadcylst Farm pre 1933**

Former dairy and the 3<sup>rd</sup> farm in Blacon on Saughall Road and is on the Blacon/Saughall boundary. Farmed for decades by the Beck family

## **19 Kingswood Lane /Saltesway. 1339/40**

An ancient and important trade route to the Wirral. It was known in 1339/40 as the Saltesway as it was easier to travel along this 30' wide road and cross the Dee Estuary By Shotwick Ford to Flint than to cross the marshes between Chester and Hawarden.

## **20. Holy Trinity Church 1960**

Replaced St Chad's Church [see Fact 5] as it was no longer big enough so the new Parish church was consecrated in 1960. This was followed by the dedication of The Chapel of the Holy Trinity in 1970.



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## **21. Roman Coin found Lincoln Road 1953**

A denarius of Nerva (AD 96-98), found in 1953 in Blacon (Lincoln Road). It is now in the Chester Museum collection. Coins first became widespread in Britain in the Roman period. They were minted largely to pay state servants, especially the army, and until the fourth century the denominations were often too large for convenient everyday use. Nevertheless, it is clear that they were widely used for trade. By carrying the emperor's head they also served as a propaganda tool. Few coins in Britain post-date AD 400.

## **22 St Theresa's Church 1959**

The Roman Catholic community progressed from sharing the church hut at Blacon Camp, to use of the Village Hall and then the Community Centre in 1959 when St Teresa's Church was opened.

## **23 Blacon Hall & Farm 17<sup>th</sup> Century**

The 4th farm in Blacon which stood on the land which is now the Adventure Playground. This land, mostly heavy clay was very suitable for producing milk for cheese and butter. The farmhouse was quite substantial, 3 stories high plus a cellar.

## **24. Blacon Adventure Playground & Farm 1966**

Situated quiet appropriately on the site of the former Blacon Hall Farmhouse. A new concept back in the day housing a community farm, outdoor extensive play areas as well as artesian craft classes run by the leader Paul Noon and his team

## **25 King George V Playing Fields -1956**

The 5.5 acre fields are the result of a nationwide project in memory of King George V, providing playing fields in communities across the land in August 1956. The fields were typically named "King George V Playing Field" and were extremely well used for decades by local football and cricket teams. However as a result of repeated Central Government austerity funding measures to Local Government they were sadly neglected particularly in the last decade. These fields are now awaiting development by Chester FC Community Trust as a much needed and overdue Community Sports Hub which is due to start in 2021



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## **26. Shropshire Union Canal "Old Man Moore's Bridge" 1772 76 –**

The canal was built by Thomas Telford and skirts Blacon to industrial Ellesmere Port where it meets the Manchester Ship canal. About 200yards along the canal towards Mollington was a small hump back bridge [Old Man Moore's Bridge] which leads to Parkgate Road and was a short cut to Chester before Blacon Avenue bridge was built

In Chester, the top of the arm leads down to the river Dee, the SU then follows the old Chester Canal built in 1772 to connect Chester and Nantwich. The canal passes alongside the city walls of Chester in a deep, vertical red sandstone cutting. After Chester, there are only a few locks as the canal crosses the nearly flat Chester Plain, passes Beeston Castle, and the junctions at Barbridge and Hurleston and arrives at Nantwich basin, the original terminus of the Chester Canal.