

# The History of Duxbury Hall

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In 1227 Siward de Duxbury was granted one plough-land in Duxbury at a yearly rent of 6s. 4d. Siward probably acquired the whole of the manor. However, in 1288 Duxbury was held in thirds by Adam de Duxbury, Roger de Bolton and Ellis de Tonge, each paying William de Ferrers a rent of 14d. Randle son of Roger de Marsey was granted all or part of the Manor of Duxbury around 1150. Randle will have had feudal responsibilities to Warine Bussell of Penwortham.

Henry, son of Henry de Duxbury, became Lord of the Manor around 1300. However, in 1315 he took part in Adam Banastre's rising against the Earl of Lancaster and his chief retainer Robert de Holland. After rampaging across the county, the rising was defeated at Deepdale in Preston. The leaders were executed. Henry of Duxbury was imprisoned and became indebted to Hugh de Standish, a supporter of Robert de Holland. To settle his debts, Henry passed Duxbury to Hugh and thus started 600 years of Standish ownership of Duxbury. Hugh was the son of Robert de Haydock, Rector of Standish. In addition to Duxbury he acquired other land and estates, including Heapey in 1500, and expanded the family's land ownership. Chorley was raided by the Scots in 1322 and it is around this time that a Peel Tower was built at Duxbury. (Site not known) This was during the Scottish Wars of Independence. It was still a feudal society. Land was granted in exchange for service. In 1396 it was recorded that one of Hugh's descendants, Christopher, had such a grant, known as feoffment.

Sir Rowland Standish was a soldier and fought at Agincourt on 25 October 1415 (St. Crispin's Day). He was killed at the English defeat at Gerberoy in France in 1435. (Part of the 100 Years War). Sir Rowland had brought back to England the reputed bones of St. Lawrence and after his death they were given to Chorley Parish Church on the formation of a chantry to say prayers for him and his family. When the manor house was known as the Peel. This may well indicate it was a Pele-Tower. These tower houses, built vertically rather than horizontally, occurred on both sides of the Scottish border. They provided short term defence against marauders. They had thick walls, narrow windows and crenellated roof-lines. Arnside Tower is

Thomas Standish had inherited from his father in 1495. When he died in 1517 he held the manors of Duxbury, Bradley and Heapey and other lands. Duxbury was still feudally linked to Penwortham as it had been in the 1100s. When a later Thomas inherited Duxbury, the manor house was known as the Peel. This may well indicate it was a Pele-Tower. These tower houses, built vertically rather than horizontally, occurred on both sides of the Scottish border. They provided short term defence against marauders. They had thick walls, narrow windows and crenellated roof-lines. Arnside Tower is

Unlike many local gentry families, the Standish's became protestants at some stage after the reformation. The most famous member of the family was Myles Standish. He was a dissenter and sailed to America in 1620 on the Mayflower and became the military leader of the Pilgrim Fathers. He was probably born in Lancashire (possibly Duxbury) around 1584. Thomas Standish built Duxbury Hall in 1623. It was a brick structure on a stone base. He was described as a "zealous" parliamentarian and represented Preston as its MP from 1640 to 1642. However, civil wars often split families, and his son, Captain Thomas Standish of Duxbury was a royalist. He was killed in 1642 in the attack on Manchester. He was organising his troops on the Salford side of the Irwell and was shot by a sniper in a Manchester steepie. This demoralized his men, many of whom subsequently deserted. His father died the following month. In 1677 Richard Standish was created a baronet. He was a Whig in his politics and represented Wigan from 1690 to 1693 when he died. Lead deposits were found at Anglezarke on Standish land and Richard's widow, Margaret, went into partnership to mine the ore. When she fell out with her partners she flooded mines and "cut up the engine and tools."

Sir Richard's son, Thomas revived the mining interest in 1721 near Black and White Coppice with a smelting mill at Wharf. In 1727 Duxbury Mill was being managed by John Brown of Eccleston and Duxbury Mill was being managed by John Brown of Eccleston and Standish agreed to build a new bridge and look after the millrace. The Standish family had exploited lead deposits on their land at 1756 at the age of 10. He became for a short time the MP for Preston. Sir Frank Standish succeeded his grandfather as the third baronet in 1766 at the age of 10. He became for a short time the MP for Preston. The Standish family had exploited lead deposits on their land at Anglezarke and Sir Frank was also interested in mining. Between 1781 and 1787 he oversaw the increase of production from 4 tons of lead per year to more than 70 tons. Withente, a rare mineral, was also quarried on Stronsey Bank. This was used by Jostiah Wedgewood in the production of Jasper Ware. Sir Frank made considerable investment in the mining amounting to several thousands of pounds but the work was discontinued in 1790. The Standish's were closely associated with St Laurence's Parish Church in Chorley and owned a small amount of land in the town. They supported the Enclosure

The growth of newspapers in the 19th century gives us more detail of the lives of the Standish family, not all of which they might have wanted disclosed. On the death of Sir Frank Standish in 1812, the estate passed to a distant cousin from County Durham, Frank Hall, and he took the Standish family name. However, there were several claimants to the estate, including Tom Standish, a weaver, who with 100 colliers took the hall by force at 5pm on June 4th 1813. After repelling a body of constables, Tom and his followers were later evicted and arrested by Dragons. In 1828 Frank Hall Standish commissioned the remodelling of the hall. The architect was probably Lewis Wyatt who worked on other North West of England projects at Lyme Park, Heaton Park and Wythenshawe Hall. The older hall was encased in stone. Pleasure gardens were added, including a tunnel entrance to a bathing pool. In August 1842 the hall was captured again! This time it was by Plug Rioters. The Yeomanry restored order. Frank Hall Standish was not able to succeed to the baronetcy and spent much time abroad. To show his anger at not being allowed the baronetcy, when he died in 1840, he left his pictures and library to his friend, the King of France! William Standish Carr Standish inherited the estate, but in the 1851 census, Duxbury was occupied, presumably on lease, by Richard Smethurst, the leading millowner in Chorley at that time. Mr. Dugdale was described as the lessee of the Duxbury Estate. In 1891 the Duxbury Estate was broken up and sold. It was given serious consideration for being the site of an Asylum by both the Chorley Council and Board of Guardians. It was only ruled out after engineers reported adversely on the effects of mining under the site of the Hall. Mr. Percival Sumner Mayhew purchased the hall and park and became Lord of the Manor.

Chorley Corporation acquired the Hall and 541 acres from the Mayhew estate in 1932 with plans to build on it. However, during World War Two the hall was used for storing mining explosives. That, and internal downspouts which hid leaks until too late, resulted in the hall needing significant repairs. It was demolished in 1952.

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## CHORLEY HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



**PARKING** Take the A6 south out of Chorley and turn right onto Wigan Lane (A5106). Take first right, signed Duxbury Golf Course. Follow signs through to park on right just before the remaining hall buildings.

This leaflet has been funded by the Tesco Bags of Help scheme.



We are grateful for the support of Chorley Council and for information and advice provided by Bill Walker, Local Historian. Any errors are however the responsibility of John Harrison and Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society.

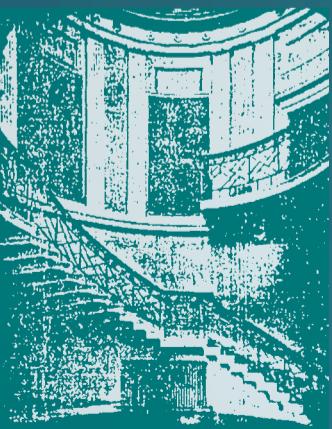


For more information about Duxbury and Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society go to [www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk)

## DUXBURY HALL HISTORY TRAIL

Duxbury is an Old English name, derived probably from Deowuc's Burgh, meaning Deowuc's fortified farm. It has been suggested as being an Angle name. The Burgh was off Grundy's Lane, which cut through the demesne of the old Hall.

The History of Duxbury and its halls is largely intertwined with the Standish family. A Hall was built on this site by the golf course in 1623. There was already a farm here, and the wonderful Cruck Barn remains. The Hall was remodelled around 1828 in the Georgian style and measured 30 x 25 metres. Particular features were a fine portico and a marble staircase.



Grounds and gardens were also laid out for the enjoyment of the family and visitors.

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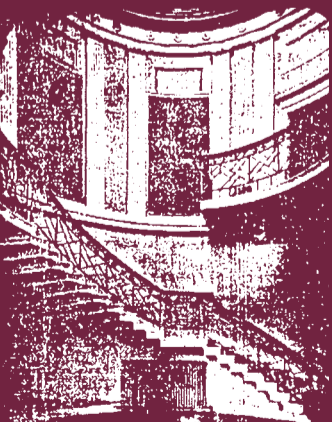
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1900s

1800s

1700s

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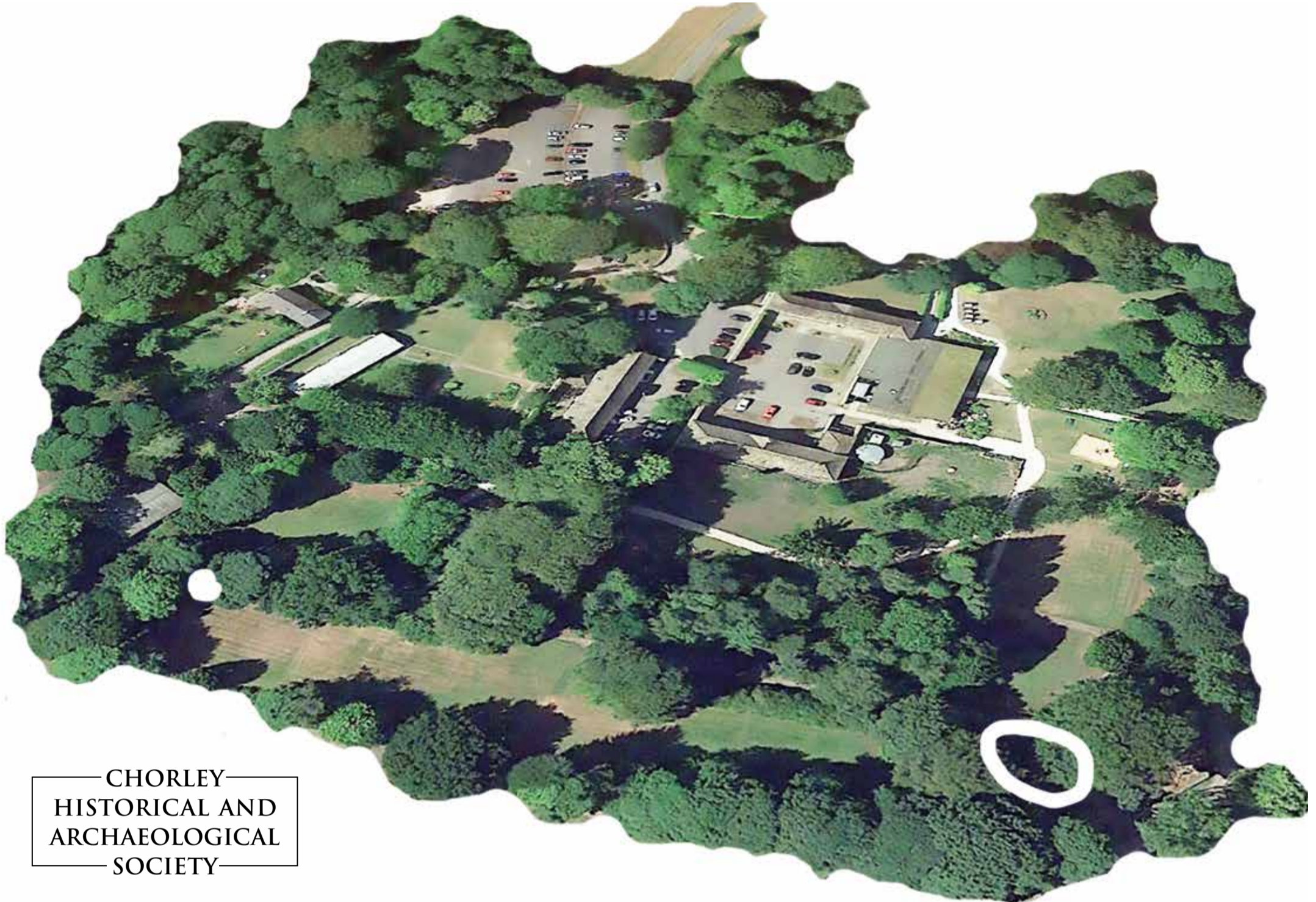
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# DUXBURY HALL HISTORY TRAIL



CHORLEY  
HISTORICAL AND  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
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**1 COACH HOUSE** See the arches. Coaches belonging to the owners of the Hall would be kept in this fine Coach House and driven in and out through these great arches. The coach house dates from the mid 18th century.

**2 SITE OF DUXBURY HALL** After the demolition of Duxbury Hall in 1957, nothing remains above ground apart from the semi-circle of ground where coaches would have drawn up in front of the portico. The rear of the Hall, which would have housed the many servants, would have almost touched the gap between the Coach House and the Stable Block.

**3 SITE OF THE FOUNTAIN** The Fountain's large site is defined by a circular path lined with stones. It must have been a major feature of the hall grounds. When the Hall was two-thirds destroyed in a fire on 2 March 1859, it would have been one of the main sources of water for those fighting the fire. In the aftermath, the grounds and gardens were strewn with debris.

**4 GROTTOS** On the way to the Grottoes from the Fountain, you will have a rear view of the fine stable block, and pass a superb beech avenue which leads to an old door, in the wall, at the rear of the cruck barn.

The grottoes, at the western end of the garden are accessed across lawns. Grottoes became a popular feature of landscaped parks and gardens in the 18th century as the fashion favoured a "natural" rather than a formal design. The Duxbury Grottoes were constructed along that edge of the garden and included a passage, leading to an open-air bath by the River Yarrow.

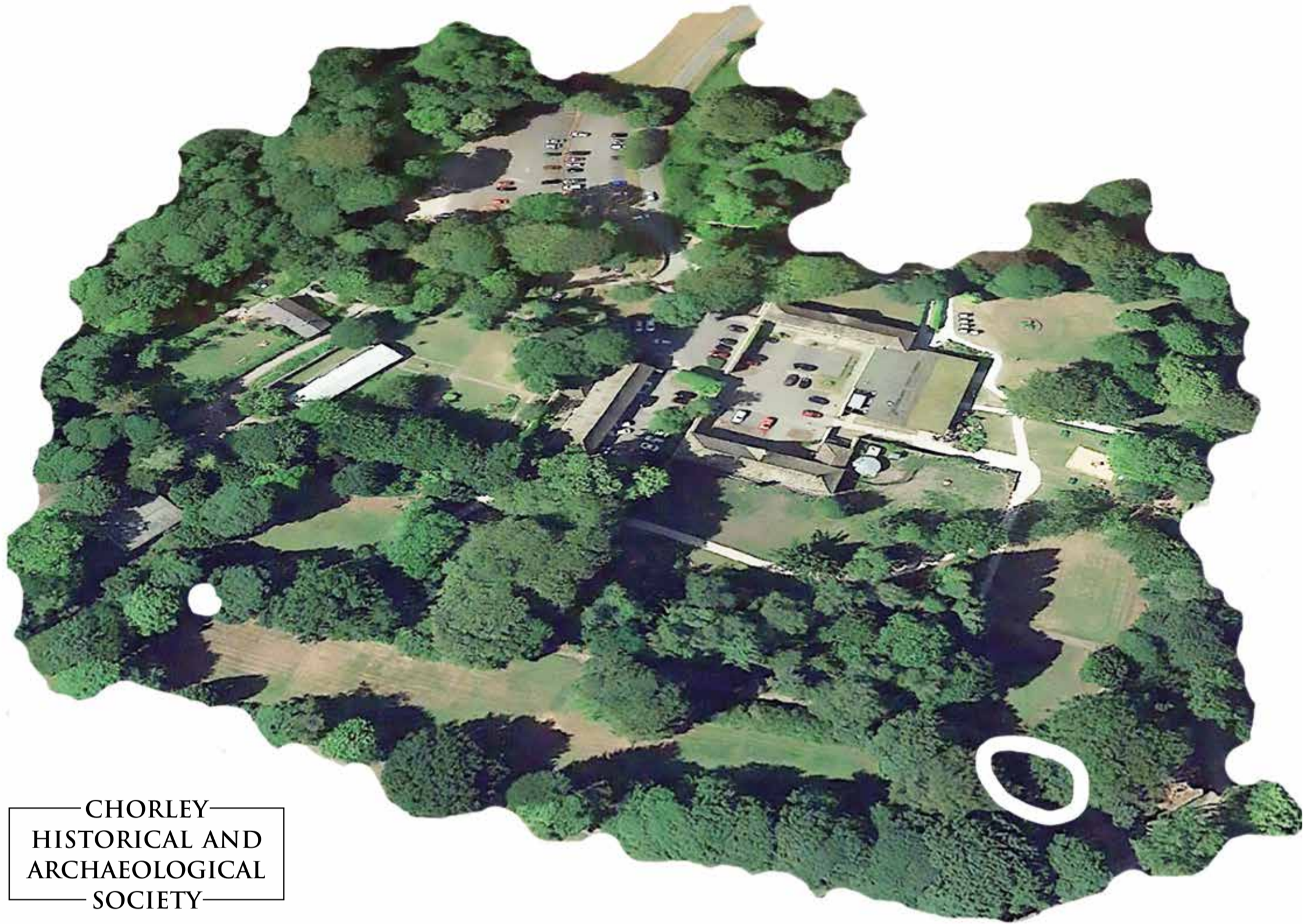
**5 THE WALLED GARDEN** Walled gardens were an important feature of old halls. They featured greenhouses and enabled the growing of exotic plants and fruit as well as including a kitchen garden to feed the family at the Hall. This walled garden was famed for its peaches.

**6 THE CRUCK BARN** On leaving the Walled Garden turn right towards the stableyard behind the coachhouse. Immediately on your right is a very fine cruck barn. This was built in the 15th or 16th centuries. It is now offices for architects, but inside the building is held up by six sets of large cruck trusses. Notice that the end walls are made of brick with ventilation slits. This building predates the hall built by the Standishes in 1623. It must have been part of a sizable farm. Also notice the holes in the brick wall at the far end of the barn yard. Fires would be lit to heat the wall to make a warmer environment for growing fruit trees.

**7 STABLES** Walk through the entrance into the stableyard. On your right are the stables, which probably date from the latter period of the 18th century.

**8 FARMHOUSE** When you return to the car park, you will see beyond the rear of the walled garden, the late 19th century farmhouse. As the former Standish estate was sold off it became the main farm on the Duxbury estate.





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**2 SITE OF DUXBURY HALL**

After the demolition of Duxbury Hall in 1957, nothing remains above ground apart from the semi-circle of ground where coaches would have drawn up in front of the portico. The rear of the Hall, which would have housed the many servants, would have almost touched the gap between the Coach House and the Stable Block.

**3 SITE OF THE FOUNTAIN**

The Fountain's large site is defined by a circular path lined with stones. It must have been a major feature of the hall grounds. When the Hall was two-thirds destroyed in a fire on 2 March 1859, it would have been one of the main sources of water for those fighting the fire. In the aftermath, the grounds and gardens were strewn with debris.

**4 GROTTOS**

On the way to the Grottoes from the Fountain, you will have a rear view of the fine stable block, and pass a superb beech avenue which leads to an old door, in the wall, at the rear of the cruck barn. The grottoes, at the western end of the garden are accessed across lawns. Grottoes became a popular feature of landscaped parks and gardens in the 18th century as the fashion favoured a "natural" rather than a formal design. The Duxbury Grottoes were constructed along that edge of the garden and included a passage, leading to an open-air bath by the River Yarrow.



**5 THE WALLED GARDEN**

Walled gardens were an important feature of old halls. They featured greenhouses and enabled the growing of exotic plants and fruit as well as including a kitchen garden to feed the family at the Hall. This walled garden was famed for its peaches.

**6 THE CRUCK BARN**

On leaving the Walled Garden turn right towards the stableyard behind the coachhouse. Immediately on your right is a very fine cruck barn. This was built in the 15th or 16th centuries. It is now offices for architects, but inside the building is held up by six sets of large cruck trusses. Notice that the end walls are made of brick with ventilation slits. This building predates the hall built by the Standishes in 1623. It must have been part of a sizable farm. Also notice the holes in the brick wall at the far end of the barn yard. Fires would be lit to heat the wall to make a warmer environment for growing fruit trees.

**7 STABLES**

Walk through the entrance into the stableyard. On your right are the stables, which probably date from the latter period of the 18th century.

**8 FARMHOUSE**

When you return to the car park, you will see beyond the rear of the walled garden, the late 19th century farmhouse. As the former Standish estate was sold off it became the main farm on the Duxbury estate.



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## CHORLEY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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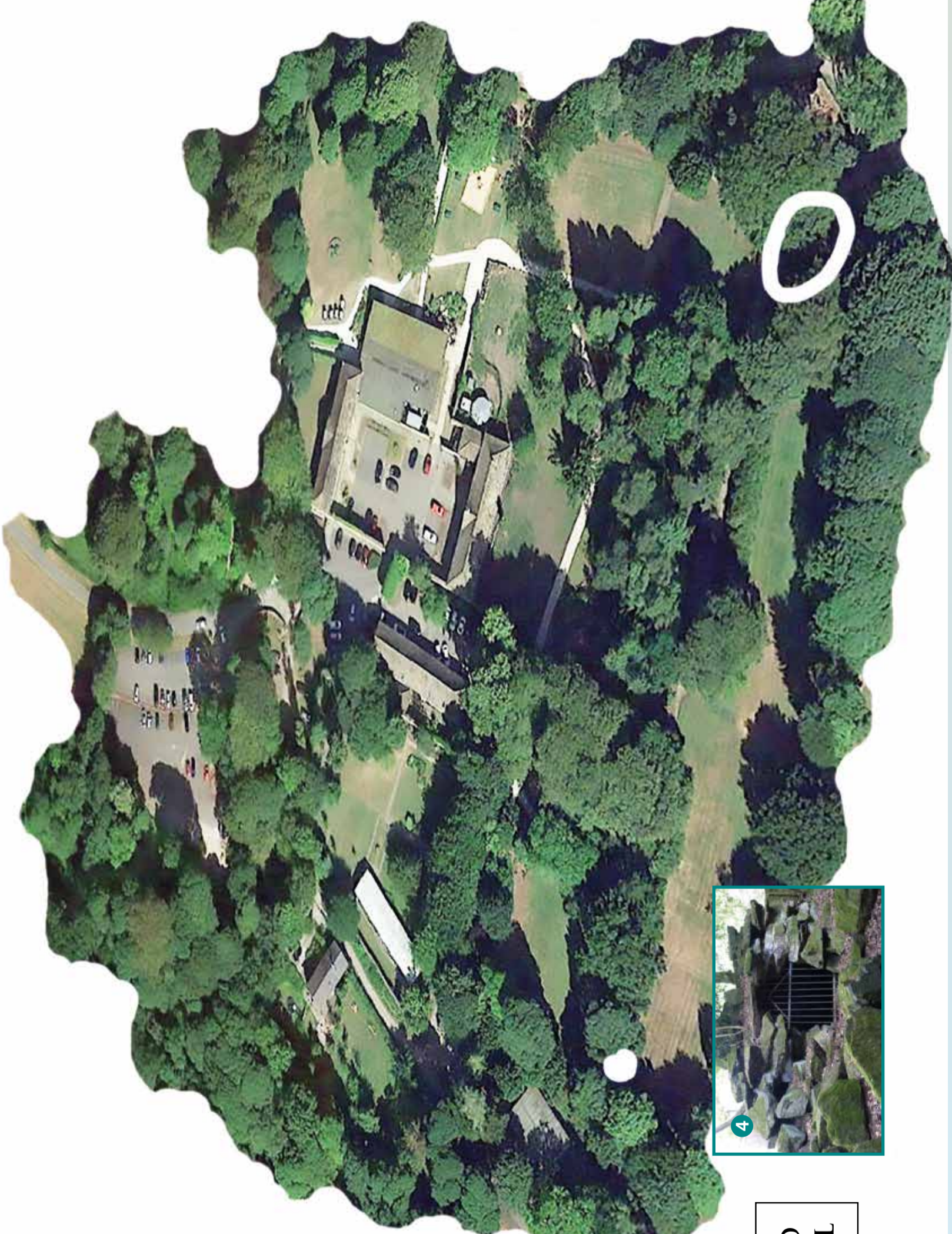
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