

= Warburton , Greater Manchester =

Warburton is a village and civil parish within the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford in Greater Manchester , England . Historically in Cheshire , Warburton lies on the south bank of the River Mersey between the borough of Warrington and Greater Manchester . In the 21st century , the village remains predominantly rural . Altrincham is the nearest town . According to the 2001 census , the parish had a population of 286 .

Warburton has a history of settlement stretching back to the 11th century , with the possibility of earlier habitation . There are 17 listed buildings in the village , including the timber framed Grade I Church of St Werburgh , which is at least 700 years old . Among the other listed buildings are examples of architect John Douglas ' work , including the second Church of St Werburgh , built in 1883 . In 2006 , Time Team excavated in the lands of Moss Brow Farm in Warburton , looking for a Roman fortlet .

= = History = =

Some limited evidence has been found of activity on the site of Warburton dating from the Bronze Age , through the Iron Age and Roman periods ; these include a flint blade , six Mesolithic tools , pieces of quernstone , and a snake bracelet . Archaeological evidence indicates that the area around Warburton has been used agriculturally since at least the Roman times . In the Domesday Book , the name was Warburgtune which name has evolved to today 's ' Warburton ' . The suffix ? ton means a settlement or farmstead in Old English , indicating that the settlement has pre @-@ Conquest origins . It has been suggested that Warburton was the site of an Anglo @-@ Saxon burgh or defended settlement , possibly either called " Toppingburgh " or Weard byrig , established by Aethelflaed , Queen of the Mercians , in 915 during the wars with the Vikings . However , it now seems likely that site lay on the Wales ? Cheshire border .

The first documented reference to Warburton occurs in the Domesday Book , where the two manors of Warburton were recorded ; the manors were united by the late 12th century . Before the Norman conquest , the area was controlled by the Anglo @-@ Saxon thegn Aelfward . Although the Domesday Book records no church in Warburton , it is possible that the church dedicated to Saint Werburgh is pre @-@ Conquest . The omission of the church may not be significant , as not all pre @-@ Conquest churches or chapels were recorded in the Domesday survey . The first documented evidence of a church in Warburton was in a deed of 1187 , when it was a chapel of ease for the parish of Lymm . Warburton became a separate parish in the 13th century . The church is surrounded by a ditch and bank , probably dating to at least the 14th century . Warburton is also the site of a medieval priory , near the Church of St Werburgh ; although the priory was only formed in the 13th century , it was dissolved in 1270 .

Warburton was predominantly a farming village during the medieval period . The north western corner of the township was used as a deer park . Warburton grew as an agricultural town during the medieval period , and it remained almost untouched by the Industrial Revolution ; this is reflected in the population change between 1801 and 1901 , dropping from 466 to 403 , with little variation at a time when the rest of Trafford was expanding rapidly .

= = Governance = =

The civil parish of Warburton was created in 1894 , under the Local Government Act 1894 and has its own parish council . Warburton became part of the Metropolitan Borough of Trafford in 1974 upon the borough 's creation , but was previously in Bucklow Rural District . The village is part of the Bowdon electoral ward ; as of the 2012 local elections the councillors for the Bowdon ward are all Conservative . Warburton lies in the Altrincham and Sale West constituency , and in the North West England constituency of the European Parliament . Since the formation of the Altrincham and Sale West constituency in 1997 it had been represented in the House of Commons by the Conservative MP Graham Brady .

== Geography ==

The village of Lymm lies to the south west of Warburton in the borough of Warrington , with the River Bollin forming the border between the two villages . The Bollin joins the River Mersey in the village ; however the Mersey in Warburton has dried up , as it was diverted into the Manchester Ship Canal further upstream . To the east lie Dunham Town , Dunham Massey , Bowdon and Altrincham , with Little Bollington to the south , and Partington and Urmston to the north . The local geology is lower keuper marl , with a ridge of sand and gravel running from Warburton to Dunham .

== Transport ==

The main roads running through Warburton are the A6144 and B5159 . Two local bus services , 5 (operated by Warrington Borough Transport) and 38 (operated by Warrington Coachways) link Warburton with Warrington and Altrincham .

== Demography ==

At the 2001 UK census , Warburton had a total population of 286 . For every 100 females , there were 121 @. @ 7 males . The average household size was 2 @. @ 44 . Of those aged 16 ? 74 in Warburton , 43 @. @ 2 % had no academic qualifications or one GCSE , similar to the figures for all of Trafford (40 @. @ 8 %) and in England (45 @. @ 5 %) . According to the census , 1 @. @ 40 % were unemployed and 33 @. @ 49 % were economically inactive . 16 @. @ 43 % of the population were under the age of 16 and 6 @. @ 64 % were aged 75 and over ; the mean age of the people of Warburton was 43 @. @ 03 . 69 @. @ 34 % of residents described their health as ' good ' .

== Population change ==

== Landmarks ==

== Churches ==

Warburton has two churches of note . St Werburgh 's (grid reference SJ696895) is a timber framed church and a Grade I Listed Building , one of six in Trafford . Of the 29 timber framed churches that survive in England and Wales , St Werburgh 's is one of the oldest . The church dates to at least the 14th century , and may be built on the site of an earlier Saxon chapel . It is rarely used for worship but is accessible to visitors . The church features an early @-@ 17th @-@ century font , a Jacobean pulpit , and a 1645 altar . Nearby are the remains of the old village cross , complete with stocks whose wooden restraints are modern , though the supporting pillars are much older . The other church in Warburton , also dedicated to St Werburgh , was built in 1883 by John Douglas and is a Grade II Listed Building . The church is made of red sandstone with a clay tile roof .

== Grade II listed buildings ==

As well as the two churches dedicated to Saint Werburgh , there are 15 other Grade II listed buildings . The parish rooms and caretaker 's house were built in 1889 , and designed by John Douglas . Also built in the village by Douglas was the post office in 1893 , and Warburton School in 1871 ? 72 ; this has been converted to a residence but still features crucks supporting the roof . Some farm buildings in Warburton are also listed , including the farmhouse on Moss Lane . The barn is 18th @-@ century but features crucks which may be 17th @-@ century or earlier . The timber framed farm building on Park Road is 17th @-@ century in origin ; the late @-@ 18th @-@ century

farmhouse on Warburton Lane was made with Flemish bond brick and has a slate roof . The barn on Paddock Lane dates from the 17th century . Also on Paddock Lane are two farmhouses : one was built in 1717 by Thomas Egerton and features an inglenook fireplace ; the other is Wigsey Farmhouse which was originally built in the 17th century with later additions , including a 19th @-@ century porch . The building on Warburton Lane near Villa Farmhouse was originally a timber framed building from the 16th or early 17th century . The house features late @-@ 16th- or early @-@ 17th @-@ century frescos of a woman , possibly St Werburgh , with two geese and a rose .

There is the base of a stone cross on Townfield Lane , and wooden stocks nearby , probably dating from the 17th century . One of the more unusual listed structures in Warburton is the 25 m stretch of wall constructed from flagstones , probably built in the 18th or 19th century . There are two listed structures in the grounds of the old Church of St Werburgh : a lychgate from the late 19th century , and a sundial from 1765 .

= = = Warburton Toll Bridge = = =

Warburton Bridge is a privately owned statutory tolled undertaking which incorporates a public highway road length . The high @-@ level cantilever bridge crosses the Manchester Ship Canal on the B5159 road , connecting the A57 with the A6144 , and was commissioned under the Rixton & Warburton Bridge Act 1863 . The original stone bridge spanned the River Mersey prior to its later diversion into the Manchester Ship Canal . Both bridges and the unadopted approach roads are privately maintained . It is one of the few remaining pre @-@ motorway toll bridges in the United Kingdom , and the only one in Greater Manchester .

= = Time Team in Warburton = =

Since 1998 , archaeological techniques such as field walking have led to the discovery of finds ranging in age from prehistoric flints and Bronze Age axe heads to Roman and late medieval finds . Featuring prominently amongst these finds were Roman artefacts including coins , broaches and a snake bracelet . At the invitation of local historian Jim Balme , Time Team excavated in Warburton in September 2006 . They were searching for a Roman fortlet that previous archaeological digs by South Trafford Archaeological Group (STAG) indicated might be present . Though no evidence of a Roman fortlet was found , the discovery of strip lynchets indicates that there was a Romano @-@ British farm in Warburton . The presence of Roman finds was explained as rubbish , mixed in with manure to be spread on the crops .