

Summary

Burrs Country Park has a fascinating history dating back to pre-Roman times, with the majority of changes taking place from the 1750s onwards. There are remains of much of the industrial heritage still remaining on site. The proposals for an overspill car park are mindful of this whilst taking the evolving needs of the community and visitor safety into consideration.

Heritage in Burrs Castlesteads

The map below (taken from Historic England) shows the proximity of the site in relation to the nearest listed heritage features. The drawn red rectangle shows the location of the proposed car park area.

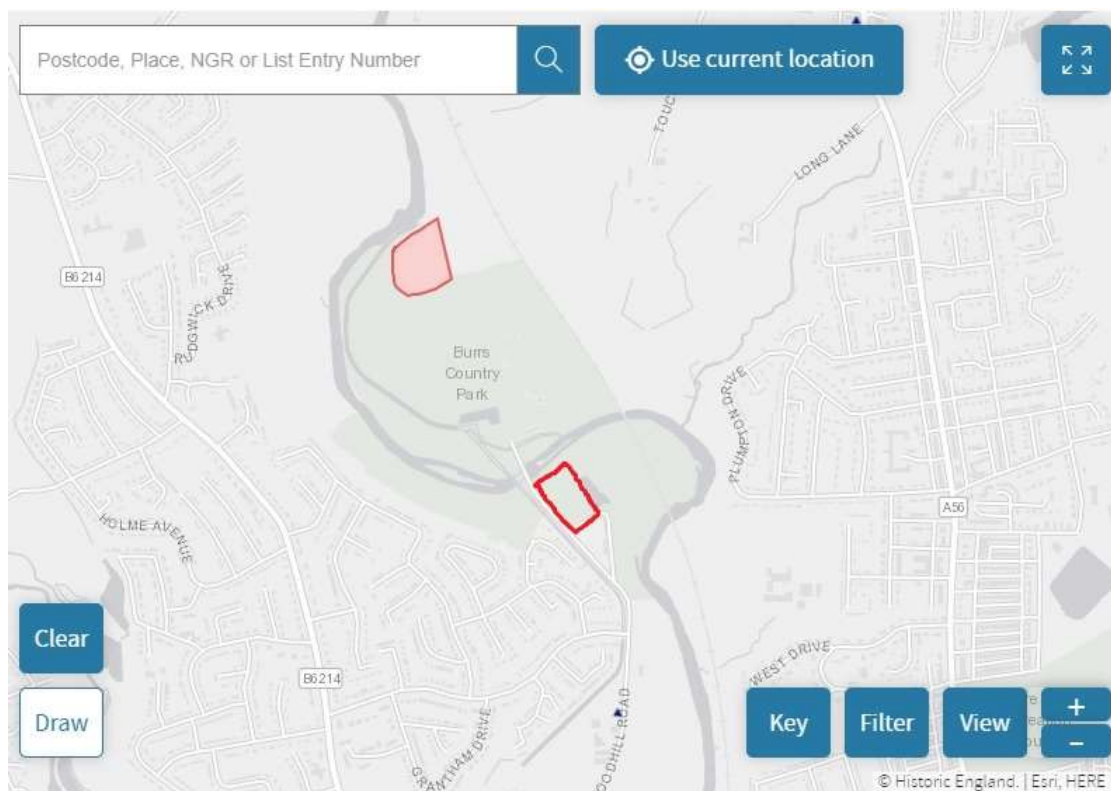
The red hatched shape in the north is a 'promontory fort called Castlesteads' and is classified as a scheduled monument (list entry 1014720); listed in July 1996.

Historic England suggest the 'promontory fort at Castlesteads is well preserved in spite of the truncation of the central features by ploughing. The ditch and additional rampart on the north eastern corner are clearly visible.' Pottery and dated radio-carbon samples from the site show it was occupied from c200BC to AD250.

This site is located 500m away from the proposed overspill car park and isn't visible from the car park, there being hedgerows and mature trees between the two sites.

Calrows Farm

The blue triangle to the south of the proposed car park is Calrows Farm, a Grade II listed building (list entry 1067268), listed in September 1982. The datestone is carved with the date 1710, but the building is likely to be older in part. The proposed car park site is 800m away from the listed building and isn't visible from it.



In more recent times, the site has been developed significantly through the Industrial Revolution, changing the farming landscape into one of mills, canals and associated buildings.

The earliest building at Burrs is the Brown Cow Public House, built as a farm in 1752.

The first mill built at Burrs was a water powered spinning mill, built in 1792 by Peel, Howarth and Yates, along with associated managers house, smithy and workers cottages.

The canal feeder followed in 1803, connecting the site to the existing canal.

Burrs Mill changed hands and trade several times from 1808, passing to Richard Calrow, then to the Yates family in 1870 who converted the mills for paper making in 1880. By 1893 the site was owned by Samuel Rothwell Ltd and being used for bleaching and dying, before being taken over by the Star Bleaching Company.

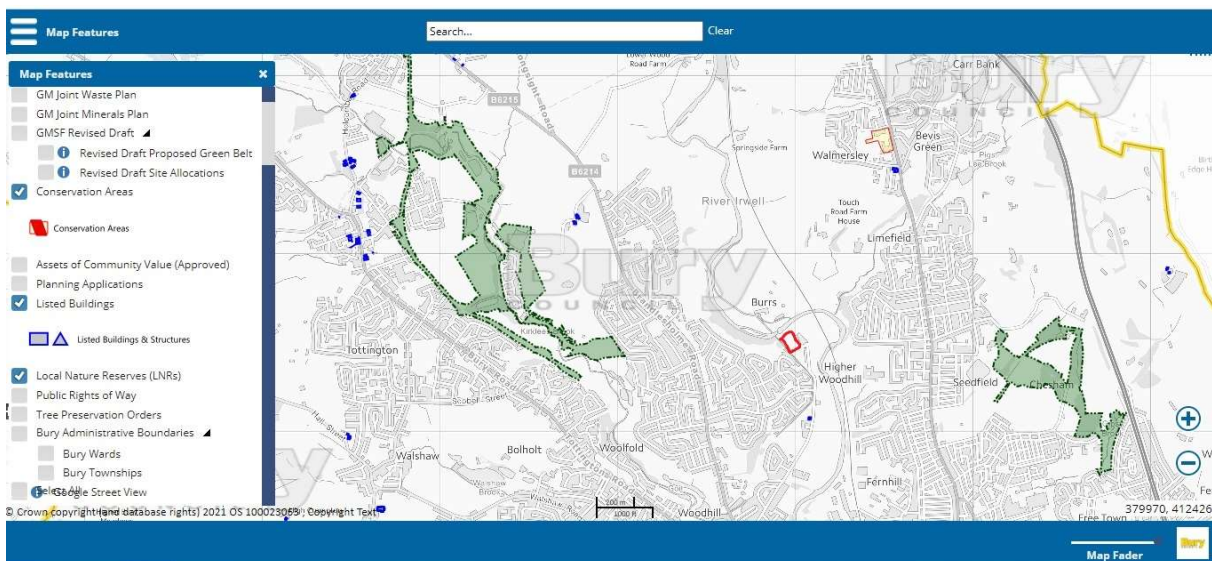
Higher Woodhill Mill was demolished in 1930; the early part of Burrs Mill in 1952 followed by the remainder of the Mill in 1982. The chimney and workers' cottage remained and the site was acquired by Bury Metro in 1986 when it was redeveloped as a Country Park.

There are several websites dedicated to various elements of the history of Burrs:

<https://www.bury.gov.uk/Burrs/>

<https://lancashirepast.com/2013/11/19/higher-woodhill-mill-ruins-bury/>

<http://www.lancashireatwar.co.uk/burrs-pow/4587398301>



The map above (taken from Bury Council website) shows the location of the proposed overspill car park in relation to the wider landscape. There are no significant designated landscapes or buildings affected by the proposed car park site.

Proposals



The proposal is to formalise the existing grass overflow car park in order to cater with the increase in visitor numbers the park has seen in recent years.

The car park surface was 'upgraded' with fibrous sand around 15-20 years ago but the heavy volume of traffic has led to this surface starting to fail.

The proposals are to create a new geogrid one-way access track in and out of the site with intermediate paths between the car parking spaces.

It is also proposed to create a new pedestrian path alongside the car park giving a continuous safe access into the park

There are no visible features on this site and historic maps from 1840s-1990s show this area was always an open space without obvious building or development, apart from its use as a landfill site in 1990. It is unlikely therefore that the proposals will have a negative impact on the heritage of the Park.

See LKC 21 1114 Land at Burrs Country Park Phase 1: Preliminary Risk Assessment – as well as information relating to the potential contamination on site, this report also contains historic maps dating from 1893 – 1994.