

Details of locations on maps

1. The Queen's Head Public House

This is one of the oldest buildings in Wormley, and appears to have been a medieval hall-house. It is a Grade II listed timber frame building and dates from the early 17th century. Courts were held here in the 18th century.

2. 81 High Road

This Grade II listed building has two storeys and dates from the mid-19th century. The ground floor includes three round-headed relieving arches, enclosing round-headed windows and a door.

3. 79 High Road

Built around 1850, the building's striking feature is a pilastered Greek revival door surround. This Grade II listed building is constructed in red brick and has a hipped slate roof.

4. Post Office, 54 High Road

Originally built in the 17th century, this Grade II listed building was altered in the 19th century. The ground floor has been modernised into a shop.

5. 37 High Road

This Grade II listed building has an 18th century front, but is probably an earlier structure as the steep roof of old tiles suggests. The interior is said to contain a central newel type staircase from basement to attic.

6. Small Wells, 31 High Road

This is an early 19th century Grade II listed building that was originally a timber frame house. A courtyard on the south of the building has a store-house that includes a sack hoist. The name Small Wells has prompted speculation that this was the site of one of three springs in Wormley from which water was piped in a lead conduit to Waltham Abbey in medieval times.

7. B. P. Brookes Butchers Shop

This is a Grade II listed 18th century building, with an outhouse/barn to the rear which dates at least from the 17th century. The barn is roofed in old pantiles, which were uncommon in this part of the country.

8. 2, 4, 6, and 8 Church Lane

This is an attractive group of early 19th century Grade II listed cottages. One has its original vertical sash and some early horizontal sliding windows survive at first floor level.

9. The New River The New River

flows through all six of Broxbourne's conservation areas. It was built between 1608 and 1613 by Sir Hugh Myddelton with financial

help from King James I, to bring drinking water from springs near Ware into London.

10. Wormley House

This well-proportioned Grade II listed building with brick front and finely cut window arches dates from the 18th century.

11. Coal Duty Obelisk

This is located in front of 137 High Road and was erected to mark the boundary of London for coal purposes. The marker is Grade II listed.

12. The Old Manor House, 72 High Road

This is one of Wormley's important buildings, and is also of late medieval origin, pre 17th century. The house is Grade II listed and on the south side of the house is a Grade II listed barn and attractive granary.

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One Stop Shops

123 High Street, Waltham Cross

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am-5.30pm.

Hoddesdon Library, 98a High Street, Hoddesdon

Tuesday and Thursday, 9am-5.30pm

Closes at 3.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

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Borough of Broxbourne CONSERVATION AREAS Wormley



Wormley Heritage Trail

Wormley lies between Broxbourne and Turnford just east of the New River. Although evidence suggests people had settled in the area long before the Roman invasion, the Parish of Wormley was formed in the 9th century by the Saxon King Egbert. The original village lay in the vicinity of Wormleybury and declined between the 14th and 16th centuries. The modern village was not firmly established until the early 16th century.

The buildings in Wormley are closely grouped along the main highway and were originally sited on long plots extending back from the road, a pattern which suggests that it functioned more as an urban centre than as a farming settlement. Wormley benefited commercially from its important position on the High Road out of London. Its inhabitants were engaged as innkeepers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, coach builders, tailors and glove makers, carriers (of local farm produce) and 'Lea Fishermen'. For a long time Wormley was a centre for the local woollen industry and basket weaving was practised until 1926.

The triangular core of Wormley in the vicinity of The Square and now built over, is known to have been the village green, with a pond, stocks, a maypole and a pound for stray animals. The pond had a ducking stool which the villagers were ordered to repair in 1637, and in 1688 they were ordered to construct a new one. The maypole was removed from the green during Oliver Cromwell's administration (1649-1660) as it was considered by the authorities to be "an incitement to naughtiness"!

By the 18th century the village had become a busy overnight resting place and the High Road was lined with inns. One of the few survivors is the Queen's Head, which dates back at least to the 17th century, whilst references to the Old Star public house appeared in records dating back to 1709. Wormley's role as a coaching stop declined when the railway reached the area in the mid-19th century.

Wormley acquired its name from two Saxon terms: 'Ley' meaning clearing, and 'Worm' meaning serpent, or the Norse name for person or tribe.

Further reading

'Wormley in Hertfordshire' – D. Bushby and W. Le Hardy

'Grade II Listed Buildings in Broxbourne' – Borough Leaflet

'Listed Buildings and You' – Borough Leaflet.

Other leaflets on the conservation areas in the Borough of Broxbourne include: Broxbourne; Hoddesdon; Churchgate; The New River.

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