

Canal & River Trust Response to HS2 Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester West Midlands to Leeds Route Refinement Consultation 2016

Appendix 4

Extract from Trent & Mersey Canal Conservation Area Appraisal Vale Royal Borough Council 2000

“3.5.1 Croxton Aqueduct to Broken Cross

This section begins where the canal crosses the River Dane by means of the Croxton Aqueduct. The canal parallels the river, north along the eastern side of the Dane valley, until Whatcroft Hall where it turns eastwards before continuing northwards to Broken Cross. The section is essentially rural in character, with very few buildings, alternating between open vistas of the surrounding countryside and attractive wooded sections. The original brick built bridges within this section enhance the character of the canal. Throughout this section there are areas where the original stone wall of the canal remains intact.

After bridge 175 is Croxton Flash, the first of three large flashes along this stretch. Shortly after bridge 176, on the east bank, lies the Bramble Cutting Picnic Site. This former waterways pit still retains some original loading rails. On the towpath side between bridges 176 and 177 is a view of the eighteenth century Bostock Hall and park land to the west. There are also views of Davenham Church spire at regular intervals along this section, although the best view is after bridge 177.

Between bridges 178 and 179 on the offside of the canal, glimpses of Whatcroft Hall, a Grade II* listed Georgian building with a copper cupola, can be seen through the trees. Just further on are the Whatcroft lodges which are two attractive private residences beside the canal. After bridge 180 is Billinge Green Flash, and it is at this point that the first glimpse of the Lostock chemical works can be seen on the skyline.

The character becomes more industrial between bridges 181 and 183 approaching Broken Cross. After bridge 181 is the first sighting of the intrusive Morrison's warehouse which dominates the views along this section and has a detrimental effect on the character and setting of the canal. Noise from traffic, Morrison's warehouse, encroaching development from Gadbrook Park to the west and the increased boating activity associated with Orchard Marina all disturb the tranquillity of the canal. Beyond the A556 road bridge 183A, the character changes approaching Broken Cross, as a modern residential housing development backs onto the canal”.