

Wirral Stone

In 1992, Cllr Captain John Herbert and George Broughton, Area Countryside Manager of Cheshire County Council noticed that the Wirral Stone was showing signs of damage and half hidden, with the smallest of the three steps broken away from the rest.

The stone, is thought to mark the centre of the Wirral peninsula. However, its origin is shrouded in mystery. Some suggest that it was erected as part of a Roman survey of the Wirral, others that it marked the assembly point of Wirral's Vikings. There are claims that it signified the meeting place of the Wirral Hundred Court in medieval times and that the name Willaston is derived from 'Wirhael-stone'. According to David Randall's book 'The Search for Old Wirral', the stone was marked down as The Pissing Stone in an ancient tithe plan of the area.

Historic landmark given new protection



A medieval landmark which may have given its name to a local village is being relocated due to fears for its safety.

The mysterious enigma known as the Wirral Stone has been moved away from a roadside into a safer position.

Concern arose after the landmark, in Hadlow Road, Willaston, appeared to have been struck by a vehicle damaging one side.

The move came after Willaston Residents Society enlisted the help of County Councillor John Herbert.

He appealed for the safe resiting of the stone, from which the village name is thought to be derived.

Although moves to relocate the stone in the centre of Willaston Village were rejected, due to its historical significance said to mark the centre of the Wirral peninsula, it was decided that additional protection was necessary.

Thanks to the efforts of Willaston residents Max Kirby and David Morris and area countryside manager Mr George Broughton, the stone, reputed to have been used by farmers travelling to market on horseback as a dismounting block has been moved!

The three red sandstone blocks which are recorded on maps as far back as 1843 have been moved away from the busy road junction and residents now hope to have a plaque made which will be laid into a paving stone.

Cllr Herbert said: "It was a shame that something that traced the history of Wirral should be allowed to disappear and I hope that people will be interested to find out about its history."

John Herbert with the Wirral Stone

Moves to relocate the stone into the middle of the village were rejected. However, the stone was moved away from the junction of Chester High Road and Hadlow Road, so that it is more visible and less likely to be damaged.

