

Some information:

The pub referred to was called Guides House Hotel. It was located on Guides Lane, which was a continuation of Mill Lane. The old Ordinance Survey map on www.ponies.me.uk/maps/osmap.html clearly shows the layout before the airfield was built. Older locals remember Guides Hotel although there is some doubt as to whether people were ever escorted across the estuary. There was a big house in the Bank Lane area called Penketh House – possibly something to do with the Lancaster family. Mr Michael Lancaster now lives in a ‘new build’ house called Penketh House. It is thought that the Lancaster family used to farm this area.

John reply:

I walked the walk east from the bottom of bank lane, the south western point of the airfield, to the sturdy wooden hand railed bridge, which crosses over the Freckleton pool, or whatever its called, at the south eastern point of the airfield although I had been alerted to the probable sites of former farm house, etc., it was very difficult to find obvious clues - but - I did see seemingly inexplicable locations of mature trees or bushes, which you would expect to find around some properties as windbreaks etc. At one point I also saw what I thought was part of an electrified cattle fence - I'm not sure that BAe would have put that there.

I understood that the big house (20 rooms, I believe) at the extreme southeastern part of bank lane (next to the foreshore) was bank cottage, occupied by the Forshaws and/or Molyneux. On the other side of the country lane, which now leads to emergency crash gate no 6, was Archers farm (not called that on the old maps) then came (effectively proceeding east along the foreshore) Bow house, then an unknown farmhouse with a prominent plum tree, then the former site of the Guides House Hotel, with nearby bungalow and cafe. I saw no evidence of any, although even if there were any evidence of some, it would have been impossible to have seen it from the foreshore because the latter is appreciably lower at some points than the sites sought

Incidentally, I'm surprised that the folks in Freckleton or a majority of them, or their representatives permitted a property developer(s) to profit from the site of the former children's school etc which I had expected to form part of a permanent garden of remembrance/repose - that is not a criticism, simply an expression of surprise.

P.S. I'd be grateful if you could transmit a mention of my reply to the other good folks in Freckleton etc. who saw my email and replied or were interested.

More notes about the Ribble:

During the nineteenth century the river was gradually trained into a single central navigation channel by the construction of rubble-stone training walls between Preston and the sea.

The depth of this navigation channel was subsequently maintained by dredging. The purpose of river training was to develop Preston into a major port. There were several phases of training bank construction, mainly between 1840 and 1910, the final 2 kilometres to the open sea was completed between 1932 and 1937.

The training of the river would have prevented a (dry) crossing so the guide would have been out of business sometime around the mid 1800's.

See http://www.sefton.gov.uk/pdf/TS_cdef_area_ribble_summary.pdf