

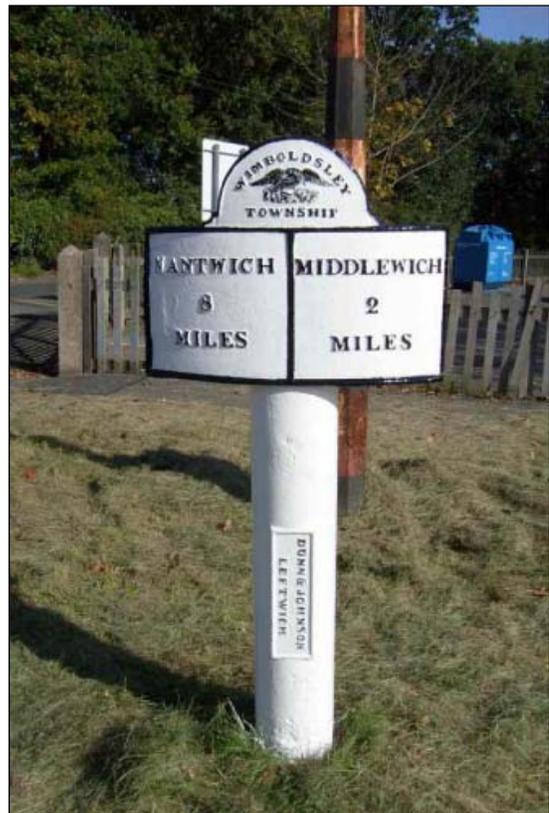


## Milestone Society restorations in CHESHIRE 2008-2009



In 2008 Cheshire County Council Highways Services were successful in gaining funding through the Local Authorities Business Growth Incentives (LABGI) scheme. The focus of the bid was to obtain funding to refurbish and repair items on the highway of importance and interest. Items included the distinctive black and white 'Cheshire' railings, milestones, mileposts, fingerpost signs and boundary signs. The Milestone Society was invited to cooperate in the programme.

Two mileposts alongside the A530 south of Middlewich were initially chosen for cleaning and painting as examples for publicity purposes. The work was carried out by Milestone Society members. One of the two, at Wimboldsley, is shown here before and after restoration in September 2008.



Adverse weather conditions over the 2008-09 winter period prevented much activity and with funding coming to an end on 31 March 2009 a last minute flurry of restorations was carried out by the Milestone Society in the Middlewich area.

Over the course of three days six mileposts received some TLC. Two were alongside the A533 at Moston, between Middlewich and Sandbach. The first was the unique CCC (Cheshire County Council) one dated 1914 (the only one with that date). It was originally positioned a few yards further towards Middlewich but it was in an unstable location at the edge of a ditch and on two occasions had fallen into the ditch. It is now on a firm verge. Before and after painting images are shown below.



The other Moston milepost was the late C19 'open book' type made by W H Smith of Whitchurch. It was in poor condition and an excessive build up of soil was removed before restoration could commence. The milepost was certainly more visible once the job was completed as can be seen.



The next two restorations were also on the A533 but this time to the west of Middlewich at Stanthorne and Bostock. Both were early examples of 'open book' dated 1833. The one at Stanthorne had suffered some damage over the years with its edges severely chipped, probably by hedge cutting machinery.



The Bostock (below) one had more rust but proved to be an easier task to complete.



Next to undergo refurbishment was this early acorn-topped 'open book' on the A50 at Cranage.



The last one completed was this 1898 'CCC' type alongside the A54 at Holmes Chapel.



Further cooperation between the Milestone Society and Cheshire Highways continues.